

Determined upon a defence of the country, Stuyvesant wrote a letter in answer to the summons, which, as it is historical of the Dutch claim, will doubtless be acceptable to the reader. The following is an exact transcript of the record.

“ My Lords,

“ Your first letter, unsigned, of the 2^o/₃ August, together with that of this day, signed according to form, being the first of September, have been safely delivered into our hands by your deputies, unto which we shall say, That the rights of his majesty of England, unto any part of America hereabout, amongst the rest, unto the colonies of Virginia, Maryland, or others in New-England, whether disputable or not, is that which for the present, we have no design to debate upon. But that his majesty hath an indisputable right, to all the lands in the north parts of America, is that, which the kings of France and Spain will disallow, as we absolutely do, by virtue of a commission given to me, by my lords, the high and mighty States General, to be governor general over New-Holland, the Isles of Curacoa, Bonaire, Aruba, with their appurtenances and dependencies, bearing date the 26th July, 1646. As also by virtue of a grant and commission, given by my said lords, the high and mighty States General, to the West-India company, in the year 1621, with as much power and as authentick, as his said majesty of England hath given, or can give, to any colony in America, as more fully appears by the patent and commission of the said lords, the States General, by them signed, registered, and sealed with their great seal, which were shewed to your deputies, Colonel George Carteret, Captain Robert Needham, Captain Edward Groves, and Mr. Tho-