

for public entertainments, concerts of music, balls, and assemblies.

Though the city was put under the government of a mayor, &c. in 1665, it was not regularly incorporated till 1686. Since that time several charters have been passed: the last was granted by Governor Montgomerie, on the 15th of January, 1730.

It is divided into 7 wards, and is under the government of a mayor, recorder, 7 aldermen, and as many assistants, or common-councilmen.

The north-eastern part of New-York-Island is inhabited principally by Dutch farmers, who have a small village there called Harlem, pleasantly situated on a flat, cultivated for the city-markets.

The province of New-York is not so populous as some have imagined. Scarce a third part of it is under cultivation. The colony of New-York contains about 250,000 inhabitants, the greatest part of whom are descended from the Dutch. The exports of this colony consist chiefly of grain, flour, pork, skins, furs, &c. Those to Great-Britain, before the present disturbances, amounted, annually, to 526,000*l.* and the imports from thence 531,000*l.*

English is the most prevailing language in New-York, but not a little corrupted by the Dutch dialect, which is still so much used in some counties, that the sheriffs find it difficult to obtain persons sufficiently acquainted with the English tongue, to serve as jurors in the courts of law.

The manners of the people differ as well as their language. In Suffolk and Queen's county, the first settlers of which were either natives of England, or the immediate descendants of such as begun the plantations in the eastern colonies, their customs are similar to those prevailing in the English counties from whence they ori-

ginally sprung. In the city of New-York, through their intercourse with the Europeans, they follow the London fashions; tho' by the time they adopt them they become disused in England. Their affluence, during the late war, introduced a degree of luxury in tables, dress, and furniture, with which they were before unacquainted. But still they are not so gay a people as their neighbours in Boston, and several of the southern colonies. The Dutch counties, in some measure, follow the example of New-York, but still retain many modes peculiar to the Hollanders.

The city of New-York consists principally of merchants, shopkeepers, and tradesmen, who sustain the reputation of punctual and fair dealers. With respect to riches, there is not so great an inequality amongst them, as is common in Boston, and some other places.

The inhabitants of this colony are in general healthy and robust, taller, but shorter lived than Europeans, and, both with respect to their minds and bodies, arrive sooner to an age of maturity. Breathing a serene dry air, they are more sprightly in their natural tempers than the people of England, and hence instances of suicide are here very uncommon. Few physicians settled at New-York are eminent for their skill. Quacks abound like locusts in Egypt, and too many of them have recommended themselves to a full practice and profitable subsistence. This is the less to be wondered at, as the profession is under no kind of regulation. Loud as the call is, they have no law to protect the lives of the King's subjects from the malpractice of pretenders. Any man at his pleasure sets up for physician, apothecary, and surgeon. No candidates are either examined or licenced, or even sworn to fair practice.