

morning service in neighboring villages and of spending there the remainder of the day with friends and relatives.

The Dutch settlers showed remarkable foresight in the early establishment of efficient schools.* In fact their prudence in all the affairs of life is proverbial, likewise their thrift and frugality in business and domestic economy. The women were remarkable for their executive ability in managing affairs, and their housekeeping was perfect in its cleanliness and order.† The men of the period, it must be confessed, seem to have been addicted, as charged, to the excessive smoking habit in their leisure hours, and the story of their pipes is an amusing bit of early Knickerbocker lore.‡

In the second and third generations there were repeated swarmings of the settlers' hive on western Long Island and Staten Island. Most of the desirable agricultural lands there having been taken up, the new generations were prompted to look elsewhere for eligible sites for settlement; and these they readily found in East Jersey.§ Among the rest, a

* "The Dutch attitude toward education was in many respects very different from that which prevailed among the English. At the time of the settlement of New England and New Amsterdam, Holland was far in advance of other European states in ideas of popular education. * * * The earliest laws of the colony show that for the support of schools each householder and inhabitant should bear such tax and public charge as should be considered proper for their maintenance."—Ostrander's "Brooklyn," i, 94.

† "In those good days of simplicity and sunshine, a passion for cleanliness was the leading principle in domestic economy, and the universal test of an able housewife—a character which formed the utmost ambition of our unenlightened grandmothers.

* * * The whole house was constantly in a state of immdation, under the discipline of mops and brooms and scrubbing-brushes; and the good housewives of those days were a kind of amphibious animal—inasmuch that a historian of the day gravely tells us, that many of his townswomen grew to have webbed fingers like unto a duck."—Irving's "Knickerbocker," Bk. II, chap. iii.

‡ "The pipe, in fact, was never from the mouth of the true Nederlander. It was his companion in solitude, the relaxation of his gayer hours, his counsellor, his consolator, his joy, his pride; in a word, he seemed to think and breathe through his pipe."—Irving's "Knickerbocker," Bk. IV, chap. vi.

§ See Mellick's "Story of an Old Farm" (N. J.), 229.