

the present states of New York, Vermont, New Jersey, Delaware, and parts of Connecticut and Pennsylvania. In 1630 (1), the settlement of Albany had been undertaken by Killian Van Rensselaer, a wealthy Dutch *noble* who named it Rensselaerswyck. The boundaries of his possession, which he himself never saw, were twenty-four miles square and included the territory of the present cities of Albany, Troy and other large neighbouring towns. Being at the head of the navigation of the Hudson, and on the borders of the Five Nation country, the settlement was well situated for the fur trade with the savages of the West. In 1664 New Netherland became English, and was granted by King Charles II, to his brother James, Duke of York and Albany, after whom the province was styled New York, and after whose second title Rensselaerswyck was thenceforth named Albany. When James became king, New York was attached as a permanent appanage of the crown, and being styled "The Royal Province," was ever afterwards more directly controlled by the Crown than any of the other colonies. English manorial law was introduced and the creation of large manors and estates became a characteristic of New York policy, until the Revolution. It was said, about the middle of the 18th century, that in passing from Albany to New York (a distance of about one hundred and sixty miles) the traveller crossed the land of only thirteen proprietors. Parkman puts the matter as it stood at about the same period as follows.

(1) N. Y., Doc. I, 85.