

The kind attentions and friendly exertions of this gentlemen, to further the objects of my visit to Amsterdam, have imposed on me an obligation which I would do great injustice to my feelings if I did not take this opportunity to acknowledge. It was subsequently ascertained that a portion of the records sold at Amsterdam, was in the possession of the original buyer, a person residing at the Hague. I purchased permission of him to make an examination of this portion, which was accordingly effected. Nothing, however, relating to our history was found; and the mortifying conviction is now forced upon us, that the papers of the West India Company relating to New-Netherland,—which, until the year 1821, were easily attainable by the State, and whose destruction has left such a chasm in the original materials for the illustration of our annals,—are now irrecoverably lost!

The application to the authorities of the city of Amsterdam, for permission to examine their archives, was at once acceded to, in the most courteous manner, and prompt arrangements were made to facilitate my investigation of the records in the Stad-Huys. Quite a number of interesting documents, relating to the city colony on the South River, were found, and copied.

Examinations were also made of the valuable collections of manuscripts and pamphlets in the royal library at the Hague; and the most courteous attention was shown by the estimable librarian, Mr. J. W. Holtrop.

The result of my researches in the various repositories in the Netherlands just referred to, is the procurement of sixteen volumes of transcripts, containing upwards of four thousand pages. As a full and accurate catalogue of the documents transcribed, is appended to this report, it is unnecessary to give any particular analysis of their character here. I will only remark that they commence with the year 1614, and extend down, in a tolerably complete series, to 1678, consisting chiefly of memorials and papers presented to the States General, respecting New-Netherland, and the proceedings of that body in relation to the various matters from time to time brought before them, affecting the colony and its inhabitants. The act of the Legislature directed me to procure, if possible, the *originals*, and if not, *copies* of all documents illustrating our history. I applied for the originals, but the regulations of office did not allow a compliance