

year 1638, Peter Menuet built a fortress which he named Fort Christina, after the reigning queen of Sweden. The place, situated upon the west side of the river, was probably chosen so as to be out of the way of the Hollanders, who claimed the eastern side,—a measure of prudence, until the arrival of a greater force from Sweden. The fort was built upon an eligible site, not far from the mouth of the creek, so as to secure them in the navigable water of the Maniquas, which was afterwards called Christina Kihl, or creek.

The country was wild and uninhabited by the Hollanders. They had had two or three forts on the river,—Fort Nassau, where Gloucester now stands, and another at Horekihl, down on the bay. But both of these were entirely destroyed by the Americans, and their occupants driven away. The following extract from the History of the New Netherlands, which Adrian van der Donck published in the year 1655, with the license and privilege as well of the States-General as of the West India Company, will serve as proof of what we have said.*

"The place is called Hore-kihl,† but why so called we know not. But this is certain: that some years back, before the English and the Swedes came hither, it was taken up and settled as a colony by Hollanders, the arms of the States being at the same time set up in brass. These arms having been pulled down by the villany of the Indians, the commissary there resident demanded that the head of the traitor should be delivered to him. The Indians, unable to escape in any other way, brought him the head, which was accepted as a sufficient atonement of their offence. But some time afterwards, when we were at work in the fields, and unsuspecting of danger, the Indians came as friends, surrounded the Hollanders with overwhelming numbers, fell upon them, and completely exterminated them. Thus was the colony destroyed, though sealed with blood, and dearly enough purchased."

*The author was more devoted to the honor and interests of his countrymen than to truth and justice. In the passage quoted he gives strong evidence directly the reverse of his intention. He calls Fort Nassau the first of the four fortresses of the Hollanders in America, which no one can understand. He speaks of the colony at Hore-kihl as quite considerable, although it consisted of very few persons who undertook to settle there, and although, twenty-eight years afterwards, when the whole river was under the government of the Hollanders, they dared not erect there even a small fort, without having first, with great care, made the show of a purchase from the Indians. He makes Hore-Kihl like the Delaware in depth and size, which no one can notice without a smile.

†[Horekill (variously written Horeskill, Hoarkill, and Whorekill) is, no doubt, a corruption of Hoornkill, so called from Hoorn, a city in Holland, from which Captain Mey sailed upon his expedition to America, when he discovered, or made his first visit, to the Delaware. Horekill was about two leagues from Cape Henlopen, and is probably the stream now called Lewis' Creek, in the State of Delaware.]