

and, intermingled with them, and sprinkled over the middle and eastern end of Long Island, were English reformers who had been ousted by the Puritans from New England, and some Independents or Presbyterians from Yorkshire and elsewhere, who had fled from the oppression of Charles I and were of the spirit and temper of their class in England at the time of their emigration. The children of many of these became Quakers ; and within all these diverse elements burned a common zeal for the simplicity and purity of the Protestant religion. And the whole mass was leavened and harmonized by the broad and dominating philosophy of Dutch toleration, to which the modern world at large owes so much for its civilization and progress, to which the United States largely owes its independent entity, and to which the present State and people of New York owe their commercial and material greatness.

In their management of the affairs of the Colony the Dutch are declared to have won for themselves from the outset the respect of all on-lookers. They were more sensible and liberal in their policy toward the Indians than were any of their neighbors ; and their admirable traits of character,—their patience and perseverance under trials, their honesty and integrity, their love of education and independence, and their painstaking industry and thrift,—were all indelibly stamped upon the fabric of their Colony, and, handed down by successive generations, still remain visibly exemplified in the acknowledged supremacy of the Empire State. Their chief insistence as to government was that it should be stable and fairly liberal ; and they seem to have adjusted themselves easily and satisfactorily to the alternate