

The proprietary next proceeded, with the assistance of his surveyor general, Thomas Holme, to lay out a place for the projected city; to which he had already assigned the name of Philadelphia. The city was immediately begun; and, within less than a year, eighty houses and cottages were built ¹. The first settlers were generally quakers, who had suffered persecution, on account of their religion; and who, with other dissenters from the church of England, sought liberty of conscience in a country, which offered to the persecuted a peaceful asylum ².

Governor Carteret of East Jersey, early in the year, transferred his rights in that province to William Penn and eleven associates; who immediately conveyed one half of their interest to the earl of Perth and eleven others ³. In the towns of

demonstrate a great regard to the rights of the natives, both in the purchase of lands, and in the observance of treaties. Beside what may be found in this volume, in proof of the assertion, the observations of Dr. Belknap [Amer. Biog. iii. 417—419.] deserve attention. That discriminating, yet candid historian, after mentioning the instances of New England, and of the Dutch at Delaware, observes, that "it may be proper to consider Mr. Penn as having followed the 'examples of justice and moderation,' which had been set by former Europeans, in their conduct toward the natives of America."

¹ Proud, i. 233, 234. Belknap, Biog. ii. 419—421. Chalmers [i. 645.] says, "we are assured," that near 100 houses and cottages were built in that time. The ground, chosen for the purpose of this city, was claimed by some Swedes; to whom Penn gave, in exchange for it, a larger quantity of land, at a small distance. Coaquannock (the Indian name of the place, selected for the city,) then exhibited an agreeable prospect. It had a high and dry bank next to the Delaware, and was finely ornamented with pine trees. Proud, i. 211, 233. Smith [N. Jersey, 103.] says, that, in 1678, a ship from Hull passed the first time so high up the Delaware, as Burlington; that off against Coaquannock, where was a bold shore, she passed so near it, in tacking, that a part of the rigging struck the trees; and that some of the passengers remarked, it was a fine spot for a town.

² Proud, i. 216, 217. Chalmers, i. 644. Chalmers (ib.) says, Penn was "accompanied" to Pennsylvania by about 2000 emigrants; but he probably meant to include all the emigrations of this year. Penn, in a letter to the ministers of England, dated 14 August, 1683, writes that he had completed "the settlement of six and twenty sail of people within the space of one year." Proud (ut supra) says, "the settlers amounted to such a large number, that the parts near Delaware were peopled in a very rapid manner, even from about the falls of Trenton, down to Chester, near 50 miles on the river; besides the settlements in the lower counties."

³ Chalmers, i. 620. Univ. Hist. xxxix. 363. The reason assigned by Chalmers for Carteret's transfer (in February) is, that he was "offended with a province, which he could neither please nor govern." The reason, assigned for the conveyance made by Penn and his associates, is, that "they wished for aid in the arduous task of peopling and ruling a distant colony."

Ibid.