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number of inhabitants, so that in the year 1682, they reckoned near 600 families were settled there.

This happy beginning determined the States to favour and protect the colony; and accordingly, in the year 1683, they granted a patent, containing thirty-two articles, both in favour of the West-India company, and for the security and advantage of those who were already settled, or should settle there for the future. Among other advantages, the Company were empowered to lay a duty of three gilders on every hundred tuns of shipping coming in or going out of the port of Surinam; as also to raise a capitation-tax of fifty pounds of sugar annually, on every inhabitant of Surinam, whether white or black; and two and a half per cent. of the value of all the merchandizes sent to Holland, or sold at Surinam. They also obtained another very considerable advantage, namely, an exclusive right of carrying negroes to Surinam; but then they are obliged to sell them publickly, two by two, in order to accommodate all the inhabitants alike, without the least distinction.

All the inhabitants of the United Provinces are at liberty to settle or trade here, paying the tonnage above-mentioned, and giving security that their ships shall not sail to the coast of Africa, or to any other part where the Company hath an exclusive trade, but that they will return directly to the ports of the United Provinces.

The Company are obliged to keep the forts of Zealand and Someldyk in repair, as also to furnish the settlements with artillery and warlike stores, to pay the troops, and, in short, to take care of every thing relating to the security and