

Novum Belgium (1643), by Father Isaac Jogues.

NEW Holland—which the Dutch call, in Latin, Novum Belgium; in their own language, Nieuw Nederland; that is to say, New netherlands—is situated between Virginia and New England. The entrance to the River, which some call the River Nassau, or the great River of the North, to distinguish it from another which they call South River,—and some charts, I believe, that I have recently seen, the River Maurice,—is in the latitude of 40 degrees, 30 minutes.² Its channel is deep, and navigable by the largest ships, which go up to Manhattes Island, which is 7 leagues in circumference; thereon is a fort intended to serve as nucleus for a town to be built, and to be called New Amsterdam.

This fort, which is at the point of the island, about 5 or 6 leagues from the river's mouth, is called fort Amsterdam; it has 4 regular bastions, provided with several pieces of artillery. All these bastions and the curtains were, in the year 1643, merely earthworks, most of which had quite given way, and through them the fort could be entered from all sides; there were no trenches. For the defense of this fort,—and of another which they had built, farther on, against the incursions of the savages, their enemies,—there were 60 soldiers. They were beginning to case the gates and the bastions with stone. In this