

CHARTER

Granted by the Director and Council of New Netherland to the Town of Flushing. 10 October, 1645.

[N. Y. Deed Book, II. 178.]

Preamble.

KNOW all men, whom these p^rsents may any wayes concerne, That wee *William Kieft*, Esq^r Governo^r Gen^l of the Province called the *New Netherlands*, wth y^e Councill of State there Established, by Vertue of a Commission under the hand and Seale of the High and Mighty Lords, the Estates Gen^l of y^e *United Belgick Provinces*, His Highnesse, *Frederick Hendrick*, Prince of Orange, and the Right Hono^{ble} Lords, the Lords Bewint Hebbbers, of the West India Company, Have given and graunted, And by vertue of these p^rnts, do give, graunt and confirm unto *Thomas farrington*, *John Townesend*, *Thomas Stiles*, *Thomas Saull*, *John Marston*, *Robert ffield*, *Thomas Applegate*, *Thomas Beddard*, *Laurence Dutch*, *John Laurence*, *William Laurence*, *William Thorne*, *Henry Sautell*, *William Pigeon*, *Michaell Milleard*, *Robert ffirmen*, *John Hicks*, *Edward Hart*, their heires, Exco^{rs} Admt^{rs} Assignes, Successo^{rs} or Associates, or any they shall joyne in Associacōn with them, a certaine quantity or parcell of Land, with all the Havens, Harbo^{rs} Rivers, Creekes, Woodland, Marshes, there unto belonging, and being upon the Northside of *Long Island*, to begin at y^e westward part thereof, at the Mouth of a Creeke upon the East River, now comonly called and knowne by the name of *fflushing Creeke*, and so to runne Eastward, as farr as *Mathew Garretsons Bay*; Together wth a Neck of Land commonly called *Tues Neck*, being bounded on the Westward part thereof, with the Land graunted to M^r *Francis Doughty* and Associates, and on the Eastward part thereof, with the Land graunted to y^e Plantacōn and Towne of *Hempsteed*, and so to rune

Names of
Corpora-
tors.

Boundaries
of the Town.

in two direct Lines, unto the South side of y^e said Island, that there may be the same Latitude in breadth, on the South side, as on the Northside, for them the said Patentees, Actually, really, and perpetually to enjoy, and Possesse, as their owne free Land of Inheritance, for them the said Patentees, their Associates, heires, Successo^{rs} and Assignes to Improve and Manure at their owne best advantage according to their discretions. Always Provided y^e said Patentees or Associates, shall settle such a competent Number of ffamilies, wthin the space of two yeare, after the date hereof, as the Governo^r Gen^{all} of this Province, for the time being, or any hee shall appoint, shall thinke convenient, may bee accommodated, within the said Limitts;

Number of families to be settled within 2 yeares.

Always Provided the first Settlers, to bee sufficiently accommodated, excepting for and to the use of the above said Right Hono^{ble} the Lords Bewint Hebbers, a certain Parcell of Land, within the Towne of *fflushing*, for their owne use;

Reservation.

ffurther giving and graunting, And by vertue of these p^rsents, We do give and Graunt, unto the said Patentees, their Associates, Heires, Executo^{rs} Admto^{rs} Successo^{rs} and Assignes, upon the said Land to build a Towne, or Townes, wth such necessary ffortifications, as to them shall seeme Expedient; and to have and Enjoy the Liberty of Conscience, according to the Custome and manner of *Holland*, without molestacōn or disturbance, from any Magistrate or Magistrates, or any other Ecclesiasticall Minister, that may extend Jurisdiccōn over them, with Power likewise, for them the said Patentees, their Associates and Successo^{rs} to Nominate, Elect and Choose, a certain Officer over them, who may beare the name or Title of Scout, or Constable of *fflushing*, to w^{ch} said Officer, of Scout or Constable, Wee do hereby give graunt and Confirme, as large and ample Power and

Corporators impowered,

To erect Towns, Forts and to have freedom of Religion;

To elect a Scout or Constable.

His powers. Authority, as, is usually given to the Scout of any Village in *Holland*, or Constable in *England*, for the apprehensō of any Malefactor, or any that shall go about to disturbe the Publique Peace and tranquility of the said Towne of *fflushing*, And him or them to bring before the Governo^r Gen^{all} of this Province, for the time being, and there to make Proces agst such delinquents;

Free Hunting, Hawking, Fishing, Fowling, and Trade. further giving and graunting, And by vertue of these P^rnts, we do give and graunt unto the said Patentees, their Associates, Heires, Successo^{rs} &c. to have and enjoy the free Liberty of Hawking, Hunting, ffishing, ffowling within their aboves^d Limitts, And to use and Exercise all manuer of Trade and Commerce, according as y^e Inhabit^{ts} of this Province may or can by vertue of any Priviledge or Graunt made unto them, indueing all and singular the said Patentees, their Associates, Heires, Successo^{rs} &c. wth all and singular the imunities of this Province, as if they were Natives of the *United Belgick Provinces*;

Inhabitants to acknowledge States General &c.; and Always Provided, the said Patentees, their Associates, Heires and Successo^{rs} shall reverently respect the abovenamed High and Mighty Lords, &c. for their Superior Lords and Patrons, so long as they shall continue within the Jurisdiction of this Province, and at y^e expiracō of ten yeares to begin from the day of the date hereof, to pay or cause to be paid to an Officer, thereunto deputed by the Governo^r Gen^{all} of this Province, for the time being, the tenth part of the Revenue, that shall arise by the Ground manured, by the Plough or Howe, in case it bee demanded, to be paid to y^e sd Officer, in the ffield, before it bee Housed, Gardens, or Orchards, not exceeding one *Holland Acre*, being excepted; And in case any of y^e sd Patentees, their Associates, Heires, Successo^{rs} or Assignes, shall onely improve their Stocks, in Grasing or Breeding of Cattle, Then

To pay Tenths.

the Party so doing, shall at the expiracōn of the ten yeares aforsaid, Pay or cause to be paid to an Officer, deputed as abovesaid, such reasonable Satisfaction in Butter or Cheese, as other Townes shall do in like Cases ;

Quit Rent
on Grazing
and breed-
ing Cattle.

Likewise enjoyning the said Patentees and Associates, their Heires, Successors and so forth, in the dating of all Publick Instrum^{ts} to use the New Stile, together with the Weights and Measures of this place.

New Stile
and Dutch
Weights and
Measures to
be used.

In Wittnesse whereof, wee have here unto sett our hand and Seale of this Province, dated this tenth day of October, 1645, stilo novo, in the *ffort Amsterdam*.

Memorandum, before the Ensealing hereof, It was Agreed, and Ordered by the Governo^r, the Land should rune North and South, but as farr as the Hills.

Memoran-
dum.

WILLEM KIEFT.

Ter Ordinnantie, &c.

CORNELIS VAN TIENHOVEN *Secrets*.