

## REPORT OF GOVERNOR JOHAN PRINTZ,

1644

*Relation to the Noble West India Company in Old Sweden*<sup>1</sup>  
*sent out of New Sweden on June 11, Anno 1644.*

1. THE ship *Fama* arrived here in New Sweden at Fort Christina the 11th of March, and is now sent away in the name of God on the 11th<sup>2</sup> of June. The reason for this long delay has especially been this, that we have this past year not had any special cargoes and therefore no returns to send home again, but now the trade went well with the savages, [and we delayed in order] that the ship might not go back again empty, and that the goods which now were bought might not lie for years and days and be eaten and destroyed by moths, mice, and other vermin (which are very plentiful and destructive) but be sent over with the ship as now has happened. God grant hereto luck and His gracious blessing, that the ship, goods, and people may arrive well preserved and in a right time at the place to which they are destined, etc.

2. The goods sent from Sweden are safely delivered, as the receipt shows, except a good deal of the linen, and the stockings, which are moulded and entirely ruined, as the skipper and his people have seen, yet the abovementioned articles were not (as one observes) ruined on the ship, but in Gothenburg in a cellar or in some other damp house, where they were carelessly allowed to stand. And this loss, due to Timon von Schotting,<sup>3</sup> can be searched and examined there through him, who is more able to write about it than I am, and ought to be held to account for so considerable a loss.

3. Timon von Schotting has also forgotten to put the price

<sup>1</sup> Or, the New Sweden Company.

<sup>2</sup> Really sailed about July 20. Cf. Printz's next report for 1647, *post*, p. 120.

<sup>3</sup> Timon van Schotting (1603-1674), a native of Flanders, at the age of about twenty-four accompanied his father to Sweden, settling at Gothenburg, appar-

on the articles, which he has now sent here, which was done last year, and always used to be done. And it ought not to be otherwise, in order that one may know how to make up the bill for each one of those, who are later discharged, and what amount they have received here, and that it may then be subtracted from their salary on their return home. But probably this is done with a purpose, in order that, as it happened last year, both the proof and the price of all kinds of goods should be sent back again. And to this paragraph also belongs the remark that one ought not to give to the wives or authorized representatives of these people [in Sweden] anything on their salaries before they have been informed from here how much they have received, because part of them have spent so much money during their sickness that they have very little to claim, or nothing at all.

4. The returns which it has been possible to bring together in a hurry are herewith sent over, namely, whole beavers, 1300, one-third-part beavers, 538, half-beavers, 299, and one-fourth-part beavers, 5, total, small and large beavers altogether, 2142 pieces. The tobacco which is now sent over makes all together 20467 lbs. And how the trade has progressed here in the last year as well as now, since the ship was here, the commissary's account and written relation will fully show. And it is necessary that we have ships here again next December with all sorts of cargoes, according to the specifications enclosed. If this does not happen the Company will in the future suffer no less damage than it suffered in the past year, which cannot be repaired with 20,000 florins. One does not send the beavers now as formerly and as happened before my time, all mixed, large and small together, but, both to prevent fraud and also on account of the customs collector, each kind, as has been said, is packed and strongly sealed by itself, according to which the commissary, both now and hereafter, ought and shall make his account. In the same manner it can also be seen from the bills that [15476] lbs.<sup>1</sup> of the tobacco

ently in mercantile business. In 1639 he was appointed factor for the New Sweden Company, and served until 1645 when he was compelled to resign for negligence in office. Later he became burgrave of Gothenburg, and died there. See Amandus Johnson, *Swedish Settlements*, especially p. 695.

<sup>1</sup> See Amandus Johnson, *Swedish Settlements*, pp. 317, 318.

is Virginian tobacco, bought for 6 and 7 stivers<sup>1</sup> a pound. The rest [4991] lbs. were planted here in New Sweden, one part by our English at Varken's Kil, one part by our Swedish freemen, for which we have paid eight stivers a pound; the reasons for giving our own more than the strangers are, first, that one would make them in the beginning more industrious; secondly, in order that people, both of our own nation and strangers, may in larger numbers come here and settle under Her Royal Majesty. When the land, with the help of God, has thus been populated, then one could easily regain the damage which is not very large; yet I have presented this as well as all other things to the Honorable Company's gracious consideration. But our Swedish freemen request humbly that they may be allowed to send their tobacco to old Sweden, where it can be sold to the Company with greater advantage than here.

5. God grant success to the Caribbean trade, and we hope in case it is rightly administered and faithfully managed that it will become a large means for the continuation of this work. Thus the tobacco trade was last year made free in Virginia to all strangers by the payment of toll; if we had here suitable goods which could be taken to Virginia then one could yearly bring from there a considerable quantity of tobacco with our sloops and increase the supply of the same on the arrival of our ships, and twice as good tobacco for as good a bargain, I suppose, as can be obtained from Cribitz,<sup>2</sup> and the toll be paid at the residence seat Kekathan,<sup>3</sup> 50<sup>4</sup> miles up in the river. But we could have a good deal of tobacco from Heckemak<sup>5</sup> yearly and would not need to give toll, but we could arrange with the merchants that they pay the duty, which they can do with practically nothing.

6. Of the people twenty-five have died during the year at

<sup>1</sup> About 16 cents then or about 80 cents now, the *stiver* equalling about 2 cents then, or 10 cents now.

<sup>2</sup> The Caribbees or Lesser Antilles in the West Indies.

<sup>3</sup> Kecoughtan, on the James River, in Virginia, near Hampton and Old Point Comfort.

<sup>4</sup> I. e., apparently, fifty German miles or two hundred and thirty English miles from Fort Christina or the Swedish settlements to Kecoughtan in Virginia.

<sup>5</sup> Accomac, near the end of the Eastern Shore of Virginia, in what is now Northampton County.

different places, as the daily register shows—twelve laborers, eight soldiers, two freemen, two women.<sup>1</sup> The others who are preserved, officers and common people, have no longer any desire to remain here, but since I have caused some provisions to be bought from the English and Dutch sloops and given it to them on their request as part of their salary, they have had better health and have become more willing and have allowed themselves to be persuaded to remain here yet for some time. One observes indeed that it is more for the harm than for the benefit of the Company to give to the people here a part of their salary from those goods which have been bought to be used in trade, from which sum the gain will be subtracted at home, yet rather than that the people should leave, as has now happened, I have at all events thought it more advisable to preserve the people than to look upon the small gain; one sees that the amount and the damage are moderate and will not become in the end altogether too great. But if Her Royal Majesty and the Honorable Company should graciously decide to erect a trading-place and a shop with all sorts of provisions, small wares, cloth, and other goods, placing over it a wise and faithful man, who would have both that and other provisions under his charge and in his care, from which they could be given on their salary as much as each one should request, then the people could month after month be paid out of the gains alone, and the Honorable Company would probably retain the capital and a large part of the profit for its benefit, for everything is fearfully dear here. One barrel of malt, Swedish measure, is worth seven, yes even eight, rix-dollars, a pound of hops, half a rix-dollar, a pound of pork ten stivers, a pound of butter ten stivers, a barrel of grain six rix-dollars, which here could be sown, brewed, and baked and then sold for the highest price to the people. For one barrel of meat I have paid to the English 135 florins, which makes 54 rix-dollars; in short everything is expensive.

7. I planted last year maize all over, thinking, according to the representations of Peter Hollander,<sup>2</sup> to receive yearly

<sup>1</sup> Add, to make 25, the preacher, Rev. Reorus Torkillus.

<sup>2</sup> Peter Hollender Ridder (1607-1691), the second governor (1640-1643) of New Sweden, succeeding Peter Minuit, was of Dutch or German origin, but had entered the Swedish service as early as 1635, being employed by the Admiralty in various capacities in Finland and Sweden. He arrived in the colony with the

food for nine men from the planting of one man, but I received, as well on the one place as on the other, from the work of nine men hardly a year's nourishment for one man. Immediately I sent the sloop to Manathans<sup>1</sup> and caused to be bought there for the company seven oxen, one cow, and [75]<sup>2</sup> bushels of winter rye. And although they arrived a little late in the year yet I have caused three places to be sown with rye, also a little barley in the spring. It looks very fine. In addition to this, maize can be bought cheaply from the savages here in the river, so that I hope that the nourishment of the people shall not be so expensive hereafter as it has been before. And therefore I have appointed the people to plant tobacco on all places and have engaged a special master or tobacco planter for a monthly wage of 35 florins;<sup>3</sup> who made good proof of his competence last year. How this will turn out will depend on God and the weather; one must hope, with the help of God, for the best. But as concerns salt-making, oil manufactories, whale-catching, minerals, or silk worms, I must report that I have not been able to find an opportunity for these things, as is reported in my former letters.

8. The places which we now possess and occupy are: 1. Elfsborg, which now (especially on the one side) is so secure that there is no need to fear any attack (if it is not entirely too severe); 2. Christina; 3. Tinnakongh; these two places are also in like manner made so strong that those who are therein need not fear for any savages, even if they were several thousands; 4. Upland; 5. Schylenkyll;<sup>4</sup> these two places are now open, yet strong wooden houses are built upon them with small stone-cannon. In the Schylenkyll there have now been bought, since we received a cargo, three hundred beavers for the Honorable Company, yet with such discretion that the Hollanders

second expedition, in 1640. Upon his return to Sweden he was advanced in the naval service from lieutenant to captain and to major, finally in 1663 receiving the command of the castle of Viborg in Finland. See Amandus Johnson, *Swedish Settlements*, pp. 691-692.

<sup>1</sup> Manhattan, or New Amsterdam.

<sup>2</sup> See Amandus Johnson, *Swedish Settlements*, p. 313.

<sup>3</sup> About \$17 United States currency in values of that period, or about \$87 in terms of present day values; the *florin*, a Dutch coin, being equal to about 50 cents at that time, or about \$2.25 to-day.

<sup>4</sup> Evidently Wasa, or Nya Wasa, at Kingsessing.

are not in any manner offended, and although they do not gladly see us here, but always protest and in the meantime loosen the tongue, yet they have nevertheless since I came here kept and yet keep with us good friendship, especially their commander in Manathans, Willem Kieft, who often and in most cases, when he has been able, has written to me and advised me about what has happened in Sweden, Holland, and other European places. He reminded me indeed in the beginning in his letters about the pretension of the Dutch West India Company to this entire river, but since I answered him with as good reasons as I could and knew how, he has now for a time relieved me of this protesting. Now a new commander is about to arrive and in that case probably a new action may follow. But how hard the Puritans<sup>1</sup> have lain upon my neck and yet do lay can be seen from the acts which are enclosed here. I believe that I shall hardly get rid of them in a peaceful manner because they have sneaked into New Netherland also with their Pharisean practices. Now they are so strong there that they have chased the Hollanders from that place called Fort River,<sup>2</sup> and now keep it with violence although it

<sup>1</sup> Prints had difficulties with New Haven as well as Boston Puritans. The people from New Haven, who in 1641 had made a settlement on the Varkens Kill, now Salem Creek, New Jersey, under the leadership of the agent, George Lambertson, secured yet another location higher up the Delaware River, at the eastern terminus of the great trading path of the Minquas Indians, from the Susquehanna Valley and beyond, so as to participate in the valuable beaver trade with them. There in 1642, on the present Fisher's or Province Island at the south side of the mouth of the Schuylkill River, as Dr. Amandus Johnson makes clear in his *Swedish Settlements*, p. 213, the New Englanders built a blockhouse, the first edifice definitely recorded as erected within the present limits of Philadelphia. Both the Dutch and the Swedes vainly protested against this competition, and finally the Dutch descended upon the place, burned the blockhouse and adjacent dwellings, and carried the settlers to New Amsterdam. Lambertson escaped with his vessel, but later was tried in the Swedish court at Fort Christina. In 1647 the Swedes built Fort Nya Kohnholm (1647-1653) on the site of this devastated English post.

The Boston Puritans who caused Prints some anxiety, were a company of merchants interested in promoting the search for the inland lake where the beavers were supposed to be plentiful. Believing that this lake might be reached from the upper waters of the Delaware, in the early summer of 1644 they sent an expedition to the river under William Aspenwall. In spite of Prints's suspicions, he was allowed to pass the Swedish forts but was halted by the Dutch at Fort Nassau and obliged to return to Boston.

<sup>2</sup> Connecticut River.

is the land of the Hollanders. And now neither protest nor good words will avail, but if the Hollanders wish to obtain the place again it must be done with other and stronger means. I look at least a hundred times a day in this mirror, God knows with what meditation, for I am here alone and there are hardly thirty men, of all that are here, upon whom I can rely in such cases.

In a like manner I have also in my former writings spoken about the English knight,<sup>1</sup> how he last year wished to go from Heckemak<sup>2</sup> in Virginia to Kikathans<sup>3</sup> with a bark and his people, about sixteen persons, and when they came into the Virginian bay<sup>4</sup> the skipper, who had conspired beforehand with the knight's people to destroy him, took his course, not towards Kikathans but to Cape Henry. When they had passed this place and had come close to an island in the big ocean called Smeed's<sup>5</sup> Island, they counselled together how they should kill him and they found it advisable not to kill him with their own hands but to put him on the said island without clothes and guns, where there were no people nor any other animals but where only wolves and bears lived, which they also did, but two young pages of the nobility, whom the knight had brought up and who did not know of this conspiracy, when they saw the misfortune of their master, threw themselves out of the bark into the sea and swam ashore and remained with their master. On the fourth day after that an English sloop sailed near by Smeed's Island, so that these young pages could call to it. This sloop took the knight (who

<sup>1</sup> Sir Edmund Plowden (d. 1659), knight, a Catholic, of Wansted, Hampshire, England, second son of Francis Plowden, of Plowden, Herefordshire, is "the English knight" whose misadventures are here related by Governor Printz. Having received a patent, in 1634, from the viceroy of Ireland, under Charles I.—with vague and inconsistent bounds and without the necessary great seal of England—for a great domain on both sides of the Delaware, called New Albion, the Earl Palatine of New Albion, as he styled himself, had come over to America to try to secure his claim. Befriended by Governor Berkeley, he made Virginia his base of operations, staying with his people apparently at Accomac on the Eastern Shore, in present Northampton County. From here at intervals during the next six years he engaged in hazardous cruising vainly seeking to induce the dislodgment of Printz and the Swedes. His means failing, and his followers deserting him, he went back to England to return no more.

<sup>2</sup> Accomac.

<sup>3</sup> Kecoughton.

<sup>4</sup> Chesapeake Bay.

<sup>5</sup> Smith's Island at Cape Charles, off the end of the Eastern Shore of Virginia.



was half dead and black as earth) on board and brought him to Haakemak where he recovered again. But the people belonging to the knight, and the bark, came to our Fort Elfsborgh on May 6, 1643, and asked for ships to Old England. Then I asked for their passport and whence they came, and since I immediately observed that they were not right in their designs I took them with me (with their own consent, however) to Christina in order to buy flour and other provisions from them, and I examined them until a servant maid (who had been employed as washerwoman by the knight) confessed and betrayed them. Then I caused all the goods they had on hand to be inventoried in their presence, and I kept the people prisoners until the same English sloop, which had saved the knight arrived here with the knight's letter, written not only to me but to all the governors and commanders of the whole coast from Florida northwards. Then I delivered the people unto him, bark and goods all together, according to the inventory, and he paid me my expenses, which amounted to 425 rix-dollars. The principal men among these traitors the knight has caused to be shot, but he himself is yet in Virginia and (as he represents) is expecting ships and people out of Ireland and England. He gives free commission to all sloops and barks which come from there to trade here in the river with the savages, but I have not allowed any one to pass by and will not do it, until I receive a command and order from Her Royal Majesty, my Most Gracious Queen.

The savages here in West India set themselves up against the Christians in one place after another. The Hollanders have fought the whole year with the savages around Manathans, as they are still doing, and although they have chased them from the one place to the other, yet the Hollanders have lost more than a thousand men at it and the company has received so great a damage from it that (as they themselves admit) it cannot be repaired with a few barrels of gold. In Virginia more than a thousand savages banded themselves together about six weeks ago and attacked and fearfully murdered over six hundred Christians. The Marylanders have also suffered great damage from the Minquas and have lost two cannon and some people. Our savages also become very proud here in the river. I have told them the whole year

that we shall receive much people with our ships, but three days after the ship arrived and they observed that there was only one ship and no people they fell in between Tinnakungh and Uplandh and murdered a man and a woman on their bed, and they killed a few days afterwards two soldiers and a servant. When their commanders found out that I drew the people together in order to prevent a future and a greater damage, then they feared and came together from all places excusing themselves in the highest manner, and said that this had happened without their knowledge, and asked for peace, which was granted them on the following conditions: that in case they hereafter practised the smallest hostilities against our people then we would not let a soul of them live, upon which they gave their writing and all their sachems signed their names to it and (according to their custom) gave us twenty beavers and some *sewant*<sup>1</sup> and we presented them with a piece of cloth. But yet they do not trust us and we trust them much less.

Nothing would be better than that a couple of hundred soldiers should be sent here and kept here until we broke the necks of all of them in the river, especially since we have no beaver trade with them but only the maize trade. They are a lot of poor rascals. Then each one could be secure here at his work, and feed and nourish himself unmolested without their maize, and also we could take possession of the places (which are the most fruitful) that the savages now possess; and then, when we have not only bought this river but also won it with the sword, then no one whether he be Hollander or Englishman could pretend in any manner to this place either now or in coming times, but we should then have the beaver trade with the black and white Minquas<sup>2</sup> alone, four

<sup>1</sup> Wampum.

<sup>2</sup> These Indians were by race and language of Iroquoian stock. There were two divisions, the Black Minquas and the White Minquas. Black Minquas, also called the Black Indians, believed to be the ancient Eries, or *Nation du Chat* (Cat People) of the Jesuit *Relations* and the Utchowig ("like a wild cat") of John Smith's map of 1608, had their general habitat in western Pennsylvania, in the beaver region of the Allegheny River and its affluents, between Lake Erie and the Allegheny Mountains. "The beavers," wrote Van der Donck in his *New Netherland* of 1655, "are mostly taken far inland, there being very few of them near the settlements—particularly by the black Minquas, who

times as good as we have had it, now or at any past time. And if there is some delay in this matter it must nevertheless in the end come to this and it cannot be avoided; the sooner the better, before they do us more harm. They are not to be trusted, as both example and our own experience show, but if I should receive a couple of hundred good soldiers and in addition necessary means and good officers, then with the help of God not a single savage would be allowed to live in this river. Then one would have a passage free from here unto Manathans, which lies at a distance of three small days' journeys from here across the country, beginning at Zachikans.<sup>1</sup>

9. The Honorable Company is also not ignorant of the fact that if *sevant* is not always on hand here, together with the other cargoes for the savages, it is difficult to trade with the savages; but half or at least the one-third part of the cargoes must be sold for *sevant* (which also does not happen without

are thus named because they wear a black badge on their breast and not because they are really black." Augustine Herrman, a dweller near the Elk River in Maryland as early as 1660, and an excellent authority, writing in 1670, calls the Ohio or its northern branch the Allegheny River, "the Black Minquaas River," and states that the Black Minquas were accustomed to trade to the Delaware River by a water route which led, according to his description, from the Conemaugh River by the short portage over the Allegheny Mountains to the Juniata River, and thence down the Susquehanna River. The Swedes also, in their turn, made visits from their settlements on the Delaware to the Minquas country, even to the remote wilderness of the Black Minquas, in 1646, especially, when Huygen and Van Dyck with eight soldiers, as may be observed above, penetrated the Minquas land a distance of fifty German, or two hundred and thirty English miles, which would bring them to the Allegheny River about fifteen miles northeast of the site of Pittsburgh. The Swedes had no "trade or intercourse with any Indians farther in the interior than with the black and white Minquesser," writes Lindeström, in 1654, in his manuscript journal ("Geographia," in H. S. P.), "who don't know the limit of the country, although their nation or tribe has occupied the country such a length of time." The Jesuit *Relations* report the practical extermination of the Eries by the Iroquois proper in 1654-1655, yet as late as 1662 the White Minquas were expecting the assistance against the Iroquois, of "800 black Minquas," "200 of this nation" having already arrived.

The White, True, or Southern Minquas, known to the Virginians and Marylanders as Susquehannas, or Susquehannocks, and to the French as Andastes, occupied the lower Susquehanna River Valley and the country at the head of Chesapeake Bay. After prolonged conflict with the Iroquois they were driven from the Susquehanna to the Potomac, and in 1675 were almost wiped out by the English.

<sup>1</sup> At the Falls of Delaware, now Trenton, New Jersey.

profit to the Company). Now, as has been stated, our savages are poor, so that one can secure from them only little or hardly any *sevant*, hence we must buy *sevant* from Manathans and of the North English,<sup>1</sup> where *sevant* is made, and it can be bought cheaply there from the savages. If we now had among the North English or at Manathans a faithful man stationed year out and year in, who could buy up *sevant* for us there so that *sevant* would not be lacking here in the river for the Swedish trade, the Company would have yearly a great profit. Likewise one can secure beavers for gold and rix-dollars in Manathans as well as here in the river of the Dutch freemen, at the rate of seven florins apiece for the good ones, and the small profit would help to increase the capital at home without noticeable cost.

10. We have not been able to put into execution our plans concerning the keel-boat which we had in mind to build here, the reason being that two of the carpenters have been sick almost the whole year and one man alone has not been able to do such heavy work. Then the savages set a fire on the island in the night and burnt part of the material which had been sawed and cut for the boat. Yet the one carpenter who has been well has not been idle. He has built two fine gates, one at Elfsborgh the other one at Tinnakungh. But since the carpenters have recovered somewhat they have built two beautiful large boats, one to be at Elfsborg, the other at Christina, and they have likewise repaired and made ready both sloops. No pains shall be spared hereafter, to have them accomplish whatever they can. But the cordage, which was sent here for the keel-boat, since we do not need it so soon, would be good merchandise to sell for beavers and tobacco, but I do not know the price, therefore I have sold, for a test, a piece of it weighing 597 pounds, according to Holland weight, for 26 beavers, less two florins, paying seven florins apiece, or nine stivers a pound, according to Holland weight. I will not sell any more before I have been informed if I have done well or ill in this.

11. And since I often receive Latin letters from different places concerning this work and I can not properly do otherwise than to answer them in the same language, in which I now do not find myself very competent, but when need so re-

<sup>1</sup> The New Englanders.

quires I must sit and laboriously collect together an epistle, and when it at last is accomplished it is only patchwork, especially since I have more often for the last twenty-seven years had the musket and the pistol in my hands than Tacitus and Cicero, I therefore humbly request that a man may be sent over to me who is not only able to prepare the mentioned writing but could also give good counsel and when it was necessary could be sent to foreign places.

12. It seems to me that it would not yet be advisable to recall Commissioner Hindrik Hügen<sup>1</sup> and to appoint Carl Johansson<sup>2</sup> to receive the cargoes and the trade, this for several reasons, but mostly on account of the language of the savages. But Hindrich Hugen has a Holland servant<sup>3</sup> who knows the savage languages and understands well how to carry on the trade. If the said boy could remain here together with Carl Johansson for the sake of the trade, then Hindrich Hugen could probably be recalled from here. Hindrich Hugen does not like to miss the servant (because he is his relative), but if the Honorable Company should find it convenient to command this with the arrival of the next ship, then indeed Hindrich Hugen will be satisfied, especially since he himself desires to leave here and will in no case remain longer than until the arrival of the next ship.

13. And since I sent home in 1643 not only a list of the people but also described the condition and opportunities of each and every one with the humble request to be informed what difference there was between the free people and those

<sup>1</sup> Hendrick Huygen, a relative of Peter Minuit, was from Wesel, on the lower Rhine, in Germany. He came over with the first expedition in 1638 and on the departure of Minuit was left in charge of the civil and economic affairs of the colony. From the arrival of Governor Printz in 1643 and the establishment of the seat of government on Tinicum Island Huygen, as chief commissary, had the care of the stores of the colony deposited there. In 1646 he and Sergeant van Dyck penetrated the wilderness to the Minquas country to the westward, and induced further trade between the Indians and the Swedes. Returning to Sweden with Governor Printz in 1654, he brought out the last Swedish expedition, arriving in 1656 after the Dutch conquest. He then entered the Dutch service, settling on Tinicum Island, where he seems to have continued until 1663.

<sup>2</sup> Mentioned in Printz's later report of 1647 as the bookkeeper who had been sent over on account of some difficulty which had occurred at Kexholm, in Finland.

<sup>3</sup> Gotfred Hermansson or Gotfred Hermer (Harmer), a kinsman of Hendrick Huygen.

who had been sent here on account of crimes, how long each one of the criminals should serve here for his crime and when his time was past how he should either be sent from here or be kept here with salary and clothes, likewise what should be done with the free people who in nowise wish to remain here, and in like manner a part of the freemen, Finns, and others (especially those who have their wives in old Sweden) desire to leave, and since it is difficult for me to dispose both in this and other cases without orders, I now as before humbly ask that I may be informed about it.

14. I will not omit humbly to relate that when the emissaries of the Hollanders and English arrive here on (as they imagine) missions of great consequence, concerning this work, they expect to receive a considerable entertainment, and are not ashamed to speak about it themselves, that they wish to be treated in a princely manner. There are also other expenses,<sup>1</sup> occasioned by the visits of merchants, with whom we trade, and of others, and we do not know who is to pay for such expenses. Therefore we have until now been as economical as we could, yet have caused each one to be treated and entertained according to his rank. And we have used for this purpose the extra income, namely sixty beavers which the English paid as recognition, and twenty-one beavers which the savages presented at the peace-treaty. This, however, is not sufficient, as the bills show. I therefore humbly request that this in like manner may be taken into consideration and decided for my information.

15. The cattle, seven oxen and one cow (which I referred to in paragraph 7) were bought in Manatans for the Honorable Company, as the bill of the commissary shows, for [146]<sup>2</sup> florins, and although they are quite large beasts, yet when one adds the expense to it, it is very dear. But it is impossible to colonize the land without cattle. I ask humbly that I may be informed how this matter shall be conducted hereafter, and on what conditions the freemen shall be supplied with cattle by the Honorable Company. The rye and barley, which

<sup>1</sup> The Swedish copy is defective here, so that the translator has been compelled to use the German translation for the rest of this and the next paragraph.

<sup>2</sup> *I. e.*, 124 florins for the oxen and 22 florins for the cow. Johnson, *Swedish Settlements*, p. 313.

were sown here in the autumn and spring, stand, as has been remarked, in very fine condition, and I hope to be able to sow so much, that the Company's people and soldiers who are now here may, with the help of God, have their nourishment for the coming year. We should indeed have been able to sow more in the fall if the oxen had not come here too late.

16. In my former relation under date of April 13, 1643, and in paragraph 23, I humbly requested information concerning the privileges of the nobility and the common people who take up land here in New Sweden each one according to his quota, how they and their descendants should own, enjoy, use, and keep it. Also in paragraph 26 I asked how I should conduct myself in the river against the Hollanders, who usurp to themselves all authority and advantage to such a large degree, as Her Royal Majesty my Most Gracious Queen can see from the enclosed resolution of Commander Kieft. They trade and traffic freely and will not even lower their flags and sails before the flags and forts of Her Royal Majesty, but one must remind them of it with a couple of cannon. All this I can easily forbid them to do at our fort Elfsborg, but not before I have received complete orders from Her Royal Majesty and the Honorable Company.

17. The expenses, which I had on account of the knight's people, being paid by my own means, as I have mentioned in paragraph 8, amounted to 425 rix-dollars, mostly paid me in tobacco. I have also bought some for cash from a Virginian merchant, and part of it I caused to be planted myself, so that the total amounts to 7300 lbs., in twenty-eight hogsheads, which I do not send to any other place (I will add), than to the Honorable Company, with the humble expectation and reliance that the Honorable Gentlemen will agree to it, and allow it for my profit, especially since my expenses here are so great, that I indeed can not defray them with twice my salary. I will gladly do my faithful service for the furtherance of this work as far as the grace of God and my understanding will allow.

18. And as I have, here in New Sweden, in the short time since I came here and with this small and weak people, begun to lay the foundation, which I hope to continue during the time that remains for me here and to bring it so far that Her Royal Majesty shall get so strong a foothold here in New Sweden that (in case the means will not be lacking) it will in-

crease more and more as time goes on through God's gracious help and will be incorporated as an everlasting property under Her Royal Majesty and the Swedish Crown, so I have likewise, in as good manner as I could, tried to oppose the pretensions of the Hollanders and the Puritans and the other Englishmen in this place and brought it so far that they suffer us now among themselves and have no more special foundation according to which they can act, or are able to stand by their former pretensions, but correspond and trade with us and do our will and bring to us what we ask for, we hoping that they in the future will not press so hard, but to be contented with what has passed. It is therefore my humble prayer and request that when this my term of three years is over I may be relieved and allowed to return again to Her Royal Majesty my Most Gracious Queen and my Fatherland, especially since I am no longer young and since the greatest part of my days have been hard and toilsome. Yet I do not desire to withdraw myself in any manner from the service of Her Royal Majesty and the Fatherland, but I desire gladly to serve Her Royal Majesty and the Fatherland under other circumstances as long as I am able and as I live. I hope that, with God's help, the one who succeeds me will have less toil than I have had.

19. The things which have been written for with this ship I have not referred to among the articles here, but have caused a special list to be made of them, and will allow it to remain this time with what has been referred to here. Only this I yet once again humbly repeat, that I might receive at least a hundred soldiers on account of the arrows of the savages, also twelve-, six-, four- and three-pound cannon-balls, more powder and lead. And this is thus ended, in humility. Dated at Christina. June 20, 1644.

JOHAN PRINTZ,  
*manu propria.*