



HOLLAND.

WAS freshly sanded the floor of the inner room of the banking house of Daniel Crommelin and Sons of Amsterdam; was washed the face of the tall clock and the delft-blue tiles over the fire place; and was dusted off Rutger Jan Schimmelpenninck in the frame on the wall for this statesman was honored in this, the first year of the Dutch Liberty.* This preparation had been made as Mr. Greenleaf from the republic in America was to appear and reveal his loan project. Be it known beforehand Greenleaf respectfully addressed the board, individually, *Mynheer*, collectively, *Mijne heeren* and called the Congress house *Congrès-huis*, the President's house *het huis van den Prezident*, shops, *winkels*, canals, *grachteen*, for he could talk *néderduitsch* as cleverly as a Dutch schoolmaster. Was not his wife Dutch, and his children Dutch-Yankees?

*On his way to meet Albert Gallatin and Henry Clay at Ghent to conclude the negotiations for peace John Quincy Adams stayed over at Amsterdam, lodging as he had always from the first visit, 1780, at the Arms of Amsterdam.

He writes in his diary under June 21, 1814 :

I afterwards paid a visit, and had an hour's conversation with Mr. Schimmelpenninck, late a Count and Senator of the French Empire—before that, Grand Pensionary of Holland—whom I had first known in 1794 as a lawyer of high reputation at Amsterdam, and afterwards a member and President of the Batavian National Convention. He has now been some years blind; but, after all the vicissitudes through which he has passed, he appears to retain his cheerfulness and his spirits. His wife is with him, and has the same pleasing and attractive manners which she had when twenty years younger. He resigned his seat in the French Senate before the late changes which excluded the other members, his countrymen. He conversed with as much freedom upon the late events in France as in his peculiar situation could be expected. He expressed some satisfaction at the restoration of his country's independence, and spoke disadvantageously, and somewhat contemptuously, of Bonaparte.

LEGATION ROYALE
DES
PAYS-BAS.

NEW YORK, June 26th, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst. I can inform you that, as far as I can remember, there was only one Schimmelpenninck prominent in the Netherlands during the time of the French revolution and his name was "Rutger Jan." It was he, who in 1795 stood at the head of the so-called "provisional representatives of the people of Amsterdam" and who later, in 1805 was appointed head of the Government of the Bavarian Commonwealth with the title of "Raad-pensionaries."

I am, Sir,
Yours truly,

TO ALLEN C. CLARK.

GEVERS.

Greenleaf, of conquering eyes, refined countenance and lofty stature with head uncovered, stood. The board of Daniel Crommelin and Sons, with their broad brimmed hats on, and so, around ample girths their belts with big buckles, stolidly sat. Greenleaf was armed with Maj. L'Enfant's map of the city of Washington, the board with long pipes. It was a battle royal between Yankee diplomacy and Dutch obstinacy. The battle raged; light clouds of smoke did issue from the door and windows, then denser clouds, then still denser until the banking house was enveloped in a fog of smoke. Greenleaf as a preface eloquently orated on the simultaneous birth of the two republics and the spirit of sympathy and helpfulness that should exist between the twins. He first spoke of the grandeur of the Congress house and the President's house, of the magnificent avenues and broad streets, then made his request for the loan. The board replied emphatically *neen*. He spoke of the shops under the arcade, of the river fronts, of the commercial and mercantile advantages and again made his request. The board said *neen*. He did point out those numerous canals on his map and suggest the similarity to be with their own watery metropolis. Then did the board of phlegmatic Dutchmen all together respond *ja*; and direct the clerk to engross upon the parchment a bond with James Greenleaf of the first part and Pieter Godefrey, Rutger Jan Schimmelpenninck and Robert Daniel Crommelin of the second part; and further, direct the cashier get the great key and from the massive coffer deliver to Greenleaf two million guilders. And Greenleaf with light heart bore the silver burden to American shores.

So I understood it and I intended to add the detail that the scene might appear vividly as enacted. For about in this way, so it is told by those who toil over mighty books and tarry over musty files in the cells which mysteriously lead to the corridors in the lower regions of the City Hall. And, so it appears in a newspaper.*

Greenleaf, then a citizen of Pennsylvania, in 1788 formed a co-partnership with James Watson for a mercantile house in the city of New York. That year Greenleaf made his residence in Holland. Greenleaf's physician in a pleasant vein prescribed

* The Washington Post, October 14, 1883.

several defences against attacks of seasickness with this preface of good will :

NEW YORK, July 30th, 1788.

Mr. Greenleaf, in the first place, will please to recollect that he has his friend Cogswell's best wishes for a prosperous voyage, for a speedy and happy return, and, that in the next place, when the circle of his *federal* brethren and sisters shall be crowding round his heart, he will esteem it a peculiar privilege to make one of the recollective number.

Greenleaf, a citizen of Massachusetts, was March 2, 1793, appointed United States Consul at Amsterdam.

Greenleaf for the house of Watson and Greenleaf with the bankers, Robert Daniel Crommelin and Gulian Crommelin trading at Amsterdam under the firm name of Daniel Crommelin and Sons, negotiated a series of loans under twelve contracts, first and last dated January 31, 1789 and August 1, 1792 respectively, for an aggregate of one million three hundred thousand dollars on pledge of American securities, deposited with them, namely :

\$436,000 6% U. S. stock,
997,000 3% U. S. stock,
375,000 deferred U. S. stock

Four hundred shares equal to \$160,000 of the Bank of the United States stock, and other valuable specialties bearing interest.

It is not to be believed that Greenleaf adopted Voltaire's leave: *Adieu! canaux, canards, canaille*—Adieu! dykes, ducks, dolts. That the Dutchman is a stupid is a shallow slander. That some Dutchmen are slow, sly and shrewd did Greenleaf solemnly asseverate in the court of chancery; however, I am not to anticipate another chapter.

Greenleaf made an intended visit to this country in 1793 and in September, that year, was at the city of Washington. I have no authentic basis for the belief that he was attracted hither by the inviting prospect of the Capital City indicated by the President's message and the established plan said to have been circulated throughout the civilized world. Greenleaf made the contract with the Commissioners, September 23, 1793; Watson, the partner, declined to share in the concern. In the ensuing month, the 28th, the firm dissolved and Greenleaf purchased his partner's moiety in the stocks pledged to the Dutch bankers.

On November 2, 1793, Greenleaf executed a power to Sylvanus Bourne, at the time Vice Consul at Amsterdam, with broad authority in Holland or elsewhere in Europe to sell his lots in the city of Washington or secure loans thereon, to furnish productive funds to protect interest and to engage commercial houses as instruments of negotiation. Bourne as such attorney contracted with the banking house of Daniel Crommelin and Sons of Amsterdam to negotiate a popular subscription, sanctioned by the Dutch government by an Act passed May 6, 1794 which made Godfrey, Schimmelpenninck and Crommelin guardians for the public of the property pledged. A conveyance, (*b. c. d.*) July 28, 1794, was made by Greenleaf to the guardians in fee, as a mortgage, to secure a loan of two million guilders or eight hundred thousand Spanish mill'd dollars.

The subscription was a partial success; "from unforeseen circumstances it appears from certificate of Anthony Mylius, Notary, dated March 23, 1795, that no more than two hundred thousand guilders have been subscribed," that is, eighty thousand dollars; and, in consequence of this failure on "the 26th July, 1795 old style and the First of the Dutch Liberty" the guardians by reconveyance, relinquished and renounced all right to

c. 500 lots. 2,632,500 sq. ft. Squares 626 * * * 1114.
d. 1000 lots. 5,265,000 sq. ft. Squares 777 * * * 1148.

and reserved as "more than sufficient for the sum which has been subscribed and paid on the aforesaid loan,"

b. 500 lots. 2,632,500 sq. ft. Squares 246 * * * 755.

This quaint document is in the court files. Forty-five years after the real estate security was sold and Jan Bondt, Commander of the order of the Netherlands, Lion, Private Counsellor of His Majesty the King of the Netherlands and Gulian Daniel Crommelin, Knight of the order of the Netherlands, Lion, both residing on the heeren gracht in the city of Amsterdam successors to Rutger Jan Schimmelpenninck, survivor of the original grantees conveyed to the various purchasers. What proportion of the investment was realized does not appear. This is the Amsterdam loan; now for the

Rotterdam.

The Amsterdam loan having been an incomplete success the resourceful Vice Consul tried the faith of Rotterdam. He negotiated through Jan Beeldemaker acting for the mercantile firm of Rocquette, Elserier and Beeldemaker. The Vice Consul "inclining to take up a certain sum of money" and Beeldemaker "to assist him in said business;" in furtherance of the mutuality a prospectus was circulated among the burghers in Rotterdam and as remote therefrom as four pipes.* The English *verbatim* of the prospectus by a Dutch translator is in part:

PLAN
OF A
LOAN

of \$400,000 Dollar american money or \$1,000,000 Dutch currency at 5½ per cent interest, annually besides a distribution of premiums to the amount of \$50,000 to be made at the final discharge of the Loan, in lieu of further interest

AT THE COUNTING HOUSE
of
MESSIEURS ROCQUETTE, ELSERIER AND BEELDEMAKER
at
ROTTERDAM
on account of
JAMES GREENLEAF, ESQUIRE;

Consul appointed by the United States of America, with the States of the United Provinces to reside in the City of Amsterdam.

For the security of this Loan 1500 lots of ground lying within the city of Washington in North America all property situated for houses and other Buildings to be erected on the same and averaging at least 27 feet by 110 feet or 2970 square feet each lot will be mortgaged at the rate of one and a half lot for every \$1,000 Dutch currency being the amount of each share of this Loan. The said 1500 lots of ground are to be transferred in the names of

GILLES GROENVELD
RUDOLF MEES
PIETER VAN DER WALLEN VAN VOLLENHOVEN

Esquires, as Guardians or Trustees of the same, for the use of the Lenders.

And as a further security for the regular security for the regular payment of the interest for the principal sum borrowed, and also of the premium to be distributed at the discharge of this loan the Borrower will provide and cause to be transferred in the names of the said Rocquette, Elserier and Beeldemaker, such amount of six

* On a visit to Rotterdam, Holland, I asked a workman on the wharf with my eyes on the distant chimneys of the large distilleries of Schiedam (the manufacturing place of the world-known Holland gin.) How far is it from here to Schiedam?

"About two pipes of tobacco," came the prompt but, for me, mysterious answer.
I found afterward that it meant as long as it took to smoke two of the small clay pipes filled with the villainous, strong Sumatra tobacco the workingmen in Holland generally smoke—about fifteen minutes to the pipe, or a half hour's walk from Rotterdam to Schiedam—*Baltimore Sun*.

or three per cent. stocks of the said United States of America, as with the interest to accrue thereon, will be sufficient to pay the annual interest of this loan until the final discharge of the same together with the premiums to be allowed and distributed.

This Loan is made for the term of five years to commence with the 15th December, 1794 and to end with the 14th December, 1799, the said Greenleaf to have option of paying off the whole at the expiration of third year.

Lastly the said Mr. James Greenleaf binds for the true performance of the premises his person and his other Goods real or personal Estate, wherever the same may be found or situated renouncing all benefits of Law which may avail to the contrary hereof.

The returns, July 29, 1795, showed that only one hundred and twenty thousand guilders had been subscribed and upon that day the Vice Consul as "appearer of the one part" and Jan Beeldemaker as "appearer of the other part" covenanted that the loan should stand at one hundred and fifty thousand guilders (\$60,000) and that the appearer of the one part for his principal should subscribe for the deficit of thirty thousand guilders; that the original agreement should stand, scaled in proportion, and that bonds of the United States, six per cent. issue, to the amount of seventeen thousand dollars as guaranty of interest and premium should be deposited with Rocquette, Elserier and Beeldemaker and that certain specified lots should be conveyed to the guardians or trustees named. And, in conformity with the agreement the Vice Consul had Daniel Crommelin and Sons transfer from the bonds in their hands to the credit of Greenleaf, as already stated to Rocquette, Elserier and Beeldemaker the stipulated amount and executed a conveyance to the Rotterdam trustees, July 29, 1795,

(c.) One half of 2,632,500 sq. feet. Squares 630 * * * III4.

Fifty years after David A. Hall, upon authorization of the court, sold the real estate security for some proportion of the amount advanced thereon.

It will be observed the aggregate loans are one hundred and forty thousand dollars including twelve thousand taken by Greenleaf instead of eight hundred thousand as has been published.

The lots in Washington were in fact the joint property of Morris, Nicholson and Greenleaf and the syndicate was to enjoy the proceeds of the loans. It seems that the securities pledged as guaranty of interest belonged to Greenleaf, indi-

vidually. Before the loan project was anywise assured the syndicate pursued a financiering scheme of floating or kiting their bills in Holland on short periods of redemption for pressing requirements. The bills summed enormously. Had their success been uncurbed they would have appreciably drained the money supply of the Dutch. The mere acceptance by the Dutch bankers of the management of a popular loan on the lots was made by the syndicate a sufficient warrant to draw.

* PHILADA. July 28, 1794

MR. SYLVANUS BOURNE,

SIR:—

Having found a good deal of difficulty in passing bills at so long a term as twelve months, we are under the necessity of again altering our plan of operation, and upon this occasion it is very agreeable to be possessed of the encouragement which the contents of your last two letters to Mr. Greenleaf afford, because it enables us to act with that decision and determination which our affairs require. Our letters of the 10th of April and 7th of June announced the bills we had then agreed to pass on you at 12 months date to the amount of 70,000 Sterling. Of this sum only 33,100 Sterling has been negotiated to this day, therefore we have agreed to cancel the remaining sum of 36,900 Sterling, none of which will ever appear for acceptance. But instead thereof, and in dependance of your obtaining the loan upon the building lots in the City of Washington, which we deem certain since Messrs. Daniel Crommelin & Sons have entered into Articles of Agreement with you to that effect, as we well know that their credit and respectability is such that the said loan will undoubtedly fill under their influence, Mr. James Greenleaf in whose name the said loan is negotiated will commence drawing upon you at 60 days sight, payable in London in favor of John Nicholson, which bills will be endorsed by him and by Robert Morris, and we unite in requesting your acceptance of these bills as they appear and payment as they fall due. * * *

We are Sir,

Your obedt. hbl. sts.

ROBT MORRIS
JAMES GREENLEAF
JNO. NICHOLSON

A paragraph of historical review of the times "Dutch Liberty" would be worthy of the space and I here would insert it did not the bibliographers tell me no history of this period is in the English language.

Of Greenleaf's personality in early manhood too little is known to write of it with confidence. That he was captivating, his friendships indicate; that he was attractive, his

* Original in collection of autographic letters of Mr. Charles Roberts, Philadelphia.

likenesses assure. That he was a roistering, rollicking blade, I hardly think; that he was dignified and elegant, I am more impressed. He thought quickly and acted promptly on commercial ventures. And his lovemaking suggests the same expedition. In Holland, he met, courted and wed, in a short three months, the Baroness Antonia Cornelia Elbertine Scholten van Aschat et Oud-Haarlem. The marriage in 1788 is attested by the Mayor of Flushing and by a commission at Middleburg, Zeeland.

The children of the union are: William Christian James, born September 6, 1790, and Marie Josephine Wilhelmina Matilda. Marie married William Antoine Schwartz, Lieutenant of Artillery.

Greenleaf's intention for several years to return to Holland is shown in numerous letters, his and others'. Again he never crossed the Atlantic.*

The likenesses of Mr. and Mrs. Greenleaf are reproductions from water colors, the property of Captain A. F. F. G. Schwartz of the Netherlands. For his kindness I am sure I can bespeak the gratitude of the citizens of the Capital of the United States who appreciate its perfection and appreciate the impetus the *first capitalist* gave to that consummation. The water colors are of date, 1793. The Greenleaf coat of arms is also presented by Captain Schwartz.

*John Quincy Adams passed 1795 in Holland on Mission. His diary mentions Greenleaf's house in Amsterdam, dining with M. and Madame Scholten, Greenleaf's father and mother-in-law, and interviews with M. Scholten. The diary mentions Beeldemaker and Bourne; the latter was still with the Dutch when Mr. Adams came on the peace commission.