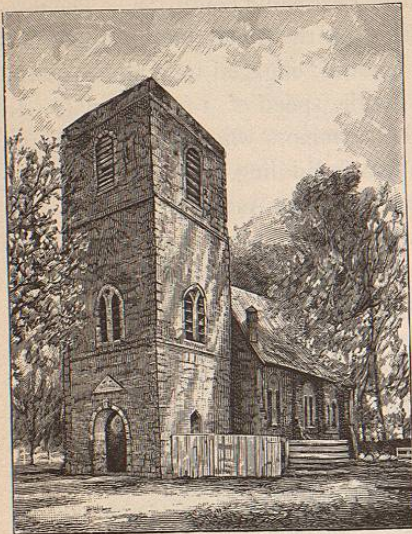


the Carolinas and Georgia followed her example. The first permanent church in America was erected at Jamestown. The



Old Brick Church, near Smithfield, Va.,
Erected in 1632.

governor and his council, in full dress, were regular attendants, and occupied seats of honor. Owing to the scattered population, some of the parishes extended over fifty miles, rendering regular attendance upon church impossible. The ministers were brought from England, and included many men of high character and mental ability, such as Rev. Jas. Blair, the founder of William and Mary College. In later colonial times, however, the fast lives of some of

the English clergy, their quarrels over questions of salary, and the suspicion of disloyalty to the colonies lessened the influence of the ministry as a class.

230. Education.—The sparsely settled character of the country in the South made it difficult to establish schools. Governor Berkeley's oft-quoted remark that he "thanked God there were no free schools nor printing-presses in Virginia" was not the sentiment of the colonists, but indicated the policy of the English governors, who would have their subjects ignorant in order to keep them submissive. Yet the bigotry of the rulers had its effect in encouraging indifference to popular education. Schools in the South were few. The

wealthy planters employed private tutors, or sent their sons to England to be educated. Yet the founding of William and Mary College in Virginia in 1693, the second oldest college in the United States, shows the early interest of the people in education. Through the efforts of Rev. Jas. Blair £2500 were subscribed by the colonists for founding a college. The Assembly approved the plan, and against official resistance in England a charter was secured from the sovereigns, William



William and Mary College in 1739.

and Mary, after whom the institution was named. The first commencement of the college was a grand occasion. Not only Virginians but a number of Indians were present, while visitors from Maryland and even from Pennsylvania and New York came in boats to attend the exercises.

231. Literature.—Printing was forbidden in Virginia by the English government, and was discouraged in all the colonies directly under the Crown. The first newspaper in the South was the *Maryland Gazette*, which appeared at Annapolis in 1727. In 1765 there were ten newspapers in the Southern colonies; two in Maryland, one in Virginia, two

in North Carolina, four in South Carolina, and one in Georgia. (In the same year the Middle colonies had thirteen newspapers, New England twenty.) The books of the colonists, like their furniture, were imported from England. The productions of native authors were generally narrative or descriptive, and possessed no permanent literary value. Compared with the writings of New England, the literature of the South was less abundant and was characterized by lightness and worldliness rather than by theological soberness.

232. **Summary.**— In the Southern colonies, as a whole, loyalty to the king and to the Established Church characterized the dominant class of settlers. The circumstances of their new homes made them an agricultural people and fastened upon them the institution of slavery. These facts will account for the distinctive features of colonial civilization in the South. There was no diversity of labor. The planters constituted the bulk of the population and were the leaders in society and politics. The "poor whites," descendants, for the most part, of indentured servants, were ignorant and shiftless. They were few in number, however, and without standing or influence. The slaves constituted nearly half the population, and as a rule were humanely treated. The isolated homes of the colonists and the bigotry of their rulers hindered the progress of popular education. Nevertheless there were occasional free schools, and Virginia boasted the second oldest college in the country. While instances of religious persecution were not wanting, yet intolerance was not a characteristic of the people. Loyal churchmen as they were, they were quick to resent any infringement of their rights by king or clergy. Jovial, hospitable, and sociable, their manner of life encouraged extravagance and love of ease. Gambling and intemperance were prevailing vices. Open-hearted generosity, refinement of feeling, patriotism, and a high sense of honor were characteristics of the better class. When the Revolutionary struggle came on, no section of the country furnished so splendid a group of leaders in the council and the field.

THE MIDDLE COLONIES.

233. **Nationality and Occupation of the People.**— New York and Delaware alone of the thirteen colonies were not founded by the English race. The population of the Middle colonies as a whole was more heterogeneous than that of either New England or the South. The descendants of the Dutch continued to constitute a majority of the white population of New York, and gave a distinctive character to the colony. The Germans in Pennsylvania nearly equaled in number the colonists of English descent. Agriculture and trade in nearly equal proportions engaged the attention of the people. Grain was the principal production, although there was a considerable diversity of crops. Numerous windmills in New York and watermills in Pennsylvania ground the wheat into flour, which



Dutch Windmill.



First Warehouse in New York.

formed the leading export. New York was the chief trading and commercial colony. The fur-trade was most extensive and profitable. There were glass and paper factories, and in

Pennsylvania the iron industry received some attention. In Pennsylvania the professions of law and medicine were in good repute.

234. Religion.— Religious toleration was a marked characteristic of the Middle colonies. New York formed an exception to this in her treatment of the Roman Catholics and Quakers. Her hatred of the Catholics was largely due to constant warfare with the Roman Catholic French of Canada. The Quakers, true to their teachings, established a religious toleration as complete as that of to-day, and Pennsylvania became a refuge for a great variety of religious denominations. The ministers in the Middle colonies were generally upright and learned men. Those of New York were jovial in their lives and free from great formality. The predominant sects were Dutch Protestants in New York; Quakers in Pennsylvania and Delaware; Quakers, Congregationalists, and Scotch Presbyterians in New Jersey.

235. Education.— Numerous free schools were supported in New York by the Dutch. Under English rule, however, popular education in the colony languished. The only free school in Pennsylvania was founded by the Quakers at Philadelphia in 1689. There were a few private schools in Pennsylvania supported chiefly by the Moravians, and a few free town-schools in New Jersey. In 1746 the Presbyterians of New Jersey founded the first college in the Middle colonies (now Princeton College). Kings (now Columbia), an Episcopal college, was established at New York in 1754. The next year the College of Pennsylvania was founded at Philadelphia. Among the lower classes of Maryland and Pennsylvania there was much ignorant superstition about ghosts, witches, spells and charms.

236. Government.— Pennsylvania and Delaware continued under proprietary government until the Revolution, while New

York and New Jersey came directly under the rule of the Crown. In the first two colonies the Council was merely an advisory body to the governor, and so the Legislature was composed of only one house, the Assembly. In their local government the Middle colonies occupied a position between the "town" system of New England and the county system of the South. In Pennsylvania and Delaware, county government prevailed, with the distinctive feature that all county officers were elected by the people.¹ New York and New Jersey had county government, and also "town meetings," the latter, however, with less ample powers than those of New England. The Quakers were mild in their punishment of crime. Pennsylvania made murder the only capital offense, and criminals were punished with fines and light imprisonment. In 1718 this mild system was abandoned. The whipping-post and pillory were introduced, and the number of capital offenses was increased to fourteen. In New York and New Jersey, negro murderers were burned at the stake.

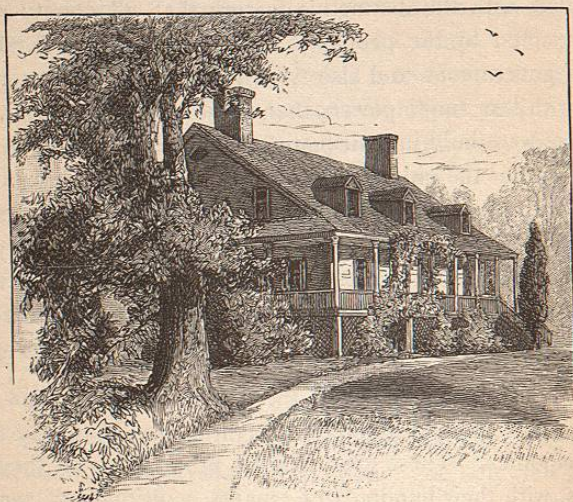
237. Social Classes.— In the Dutch patroons New York possessed a more distinctly aristocratic class than any of the other colonies. These great landed proprietors on their vast estates, with their hundreds of tenants, multitudes of servants, and princely power lived in magnificent style. There were single estates that elected members of the Assembly, and these elections were controlled by the patroons. In the other Middle colonies the wealthy landed gentry constituted the highest class, but there were few large estates. There were many indented servants and a considerable number of slaves.² With

¹ The Pennsylvania system of county government exists in most states to-day.

² In New York there was a deep antipathy to the negroes, which showed itself on two occasions in a craze of excitement not unlike the witchcraft frenzy of Massachusetts. In the "negro plot" of 1741 the blacks were accused of plotting to burn the city of New York. Before the panic was over 13 of the unfortunate creatures were burned at the stake, 18 were hanged, and 17 transported, in accordance with the judgment of the court.

the exception of New York, social distinctions were less marked in the Middle colonies than in New England or the South.

238. Social Life.—Social life and customs were largely moulded by the Dutch in New York, and by the Quakers in the remaining Middle colonies. In New York the lords of the manor dressed in silks and velvets, and lived in large, hand-



Dutch Manor House.¹

somely furnished houses of brick or stone. They had great barns, and an abundance of horses and cattle. They generally spent their winters in the town of New York, returning to their country-seats in the spring. The houses of the moderate farmers were of wood, sometimes trimmed with yellow Holland brick, and surmounted with a gilded weather-cock. The furniture was plain and solid. The sideboards were plentifully supplied with wine and decorated with a rack of tobacco-pipes, for the Dutch were great smokers. Both sexes dressed in homespun.

¹ From "Memorial History of New York."

The loose, "baggy" breeches of the men and the numerous petticoats of the women gave them a clumsy appearance. The Dutch women were notable housewives. Their houses were kept scrupulously clean, and their floors were regularly scrubbed and sanded. Carpets were not used. The people were fond of social pleasure, and had a great liking for holidays. Christmas and New Year's were great festivals. St. Valentine's Day, Easter, and May Day were also celebrated by the young people.



Burgomaster of
New Amsterdam.

The Quakers of Pennsylvania and New Jersey were the best farmers of their time, thrifty, temperate, and economical. In the older settled communities the houses were generally of brick, plastered and papered, and plainly furnished. Leather breeches, hempen jackets, and broad hats were worn by the farmers on work-days. House-raising,



Quaker.

huskings, and cider-pressings were occasions of social gatherings, but the ordinary daily life of the Quakers was sober and monotonous. Journeys were made on horseback. The bride rode to the wedding seated on a "pillion" behind her father, and returned in the same way behind her husband. In New Jersey a cow and a side saddle constituted a usual dower of the average farmer's daughter. Philadelphia and New York were the social centers of the Middle colonies; in the latter place, especially, society was gay and fashionable.

239. Summary.—In their social and political institutions, as in their geographical situation, the Middle colonies occupy a middle ground between the New England and the Southern groups. Neither trade nor agriculture

engrossed the exclusive attention of the people. Their local government was a compromise between the "town" and county systems. Slaves were more numerous than in New England, but far less abundant than in the South. The Middle colonies possessed the largest foreign population. As a rule social distinctions were less marked than in either of the other sections. In the Quaker colonies neither the religious persecution of the New England Puritans nor the intolerance of the Virginia Churchmen existed. Both the Dutch and the Quakers were slow in thought and action. In the Revolution they furnished a conservative class that formed a valuable element of strength in the struggle.

240. **Thought Questions.** — Whence did the colonists borrow the idea of having two branches in their colonial Legislatures? What points do you see to admire in the town system of local government in New England? In the county system of the South? How did the methods of church government of the settlers of Massachusetts and of Virginia influence their local civil government? Contrast the soil and climate of Massachusetts and of Virginia. How did these differences affect the occupations of the settlers in New England and the South? their local government? the institution of slavery? If the New England Puritans had settled in Virginia, and the Virginia Royalists had settled in New England, would the distinctive features of colonial life in the two sections have been different from what they really were? Was the difference in the life of the colonists due chiefly to local surroundings in America, or to the character and religion of the settlers, or to both? Are the differences between the sections of our country to-day more or less marked than they were in colonial times? Give the reason for your answer. What causes to-day tend to give uniformity to the manners and customs of the people in all parts of the United States? What causes tend to difference? In what particular have we made the greatest improvement since colonial times?

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GENERAL VIEW
OF THE
COLONIES
(continued).

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	210. Government. { Republican colonies. Proprietary colonies. Royal colonies.
	211. Colonies Classified. { Differences. Resemblance. Three groups.
	212. Occupations of the People. { Farming. Fisheries. Shipbuilding. Commerce. Handicrafts.
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- 234. Religion. { Toleration.
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