

**THE GOEDE VROUW OF MANU-HA-TA At Home  
and in Society. 1609-1760. By Mrs. John  
King Van Rensselaer. New York: Charles  
Scrivner's Sons. \$2.**

The mothers of early New York were a splendid race. They moulded society and made history. This book tells us how. A history of the city from its chief households as centres. It is like making calls on the ladies of the old Dutch city and hearing all about their courtships, their children, their social life and their husband's offices, duties and trials. The reader feels complimented by this intimacy and grows complaisant to all their prejudices, their persecu-

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tion of unpopular Governors, their intense concern with public affairs. And he is moved to high approval of their housewifely accomplishments, customs and tastes. The care and training of their children give a lesson to the mothers of all subsequent time. The sturdy lad, the handsome lass, that loved the mother above everything was not a trifier, nor could easily become a renegade. The influence of such a woman as Mary Alexander one can think is felt even yet.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer fixes the year 1870 as the point beyond which the old regime ceased to rule by some traditions in Manhattan. We think society of the best, recognizes still the old powers, shows yet traces of the old times, forces, fashions, principles. Pitiful indeed would it be if Paris, or Berlin, or London should obliterate the lineaments, prenatal, all pervading, of our modern city. We think this book will not only show the value of these distinctive qualities, but will tend to preserve the personality of the city of the fathers and mothers who nursed it into sturdy life and started it on its great career.

For the history of the old Dutch families and their alliances with the Scotch, Huguenot and English, this book is invaluable. It is rich in genealogical detail, with information exact and full. A happy device is the outline pedigrees given at the front. Some repetitions in the separate chapters, seem needful to a perfect understanding of the relationships. We can all find our Dutch cousins and feel competent to help them comprehend their relationships to each other. Really more valuable is this information than historians are ready to admit. Confusion of names is often more than a confusion of dates. The men and women of the Revolution, had an origin worth tracing out. This book has done for New York what no history has ever undertaken. We are much in its debt for details that have solved many a social and political puzzle.