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Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen
Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen
Germany
Email: gdz@sub.uni-goettingen.de

ners, have been under a necessity of undertaking the difficult task of altering their old, or forming new constitutions, and of changing their monarchical for republican manners. Connecticut has uninterruptedly proceeded in her old track, both as to government and manners; and, by these means, has avoided those convulsions which have rent other states into violent parties.

N E W - Y O R K.

miles.

Length 350 } between { $40^{\circ} 40'$ and 45° N. Latitude.
Breadth 300 } { 5° West and $1^{\circ} 30'$ E. Longit.

BOUNDED south-eastwardly, by the Atlantick Ocean; east, by Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont; north, by the 45^{th} degree of latitude, which divides it from Canada; north-westwardly, by the river Iroquois, or St. Lawrence, and the Lakes Ontario and Erie; south-west and south, by Pennsylvania and New-Jersey. The whole state contains about 44,000 square miles, equal to 28,160,000 acres.

Rivers.] Hudson's river is one of the largest and finest rivers in the United States. It rises in the mountainous country between the Lakes Ontario and Champlain. Its length is about 250 miles. The course of the river from Lake George to New-York, where it empties into York bay, is very uniformly south, 12 or 15° west. From Albany to Lake George is sixty-five miles. This distance, the river is navigable only for batteaux, and has two portages; occasioned by falls, of half a mile each.

The tide flows a few miles above Albany, which is 160 miles from New-York. It is navigable for sloops of 80 tons to Albany, and for ships to Hudson. About 60 miles above New-York, the water becomes fresh.

The

The river St. Lawrence divides this state from Canada. It rises in Lake Ontario, runs north-eastward, embosoms Montreal, which stands upon an island, passes by Quebec, and empties by a broad mouth into the bay of St. Lawrence.

Onondago river rises in the lake of the same name, runs westwardly into Lake Ontario at Oswego.

Mohawks river rises to the northward of Fort Stanwix, and runs southwardly to the fort, then eastward 110 miles into the Hudson. The Cohoez, in this river, are a great curiosity. They are about two miles from its entrance into the Hudson. The river is about 100 yards wide; the rock over which it pours, as over a mill-dam, extends almost in a line from one side of the river to the other, and is about thirty feet perpendicular height. Including the descent above, the fall is as much as sixty or seventy feet. The rocks below, in some places, are worn many feet deep by the constant friction of the water. The view of this tremendous cataract is diminished by the height of the banks on each side of the river.

Tyoga river rises in the Allegany mountains, runs eastwardly, and empties into the Susquehannah at Tyoga point. It is boatable about fifty miles.

Seneca river rises in the Seneca country, and empties into the Onondago river, a little above the falls. It is boatable from the lakes downwards.

Chenestee river rises near the source of the Tyoga, and runs northwardly by the Chenestee castle and flats, and empties into Lake Ontario, eighty miles east of Niagara fort.

The settlements already made in this state, are chiefly upon two narrow oblongs, extending from the city of New-York, east and north. The one east, is Long-Island, which is 140 miles long, and narrow, and surrounded by the sea. The one extending north is about forty miles in breadth, and bisected by the Hudson. And such is the intersection of the whole state, by the branches of the Hudson, the Delaware, the Susquehannah, and other rivers which have been mentioned, that there

there are few places throughout its whole extent, that are more than fifteen or twenty miles from some boatable or navigable stream.

Bays and Lakes.] York bay, which is nine miles long and four broad, spreads to the southward before the city of New-York. It is formed by the confluence of the East and Hudson's rivers, and embosoms several small islands, of which Governor's island is the principal. It communicates with the ocean through the *Narrows*, between Staten and Long Islands, which are scarcely two miles apart. The passage up to New-York, from Sandy-Hook, the point of land that extends farthest into the sea, is safe, and not above twenty miles in length. The common navigation is between the east and west banks, in about twenty-two feet water. There is a light-house at Sandy-Hook, on Jersey shore.

South bay is the southern branch or head of Lake Champlain. It commences at the falls of a creek, which is navigable several miles into the country, and forms most excellent meadows. From the falls to Ticonderoga is thirty miles. The bay is generally half a mile wide near the head, but in several places below, a mile. Its banks are steep hills or cliffs of rocks, generally inaccessible. At Ticonderoga, this bay unites with Lake George, which comes from the south-west, towards the Hudson, and is about thirty-five miles long, and one mile broad. After their union, they are contracted to a small breadth, between Ticonderoga, on the west, and Mount Independence, on the east. They then open into Lake Champlain before described.

Oneida Lake lies about twenty miles west of Fort Stanwix, and extends westward about 25 miles.

Salt Lake is small, and empties into Seneca river, soon after its junction with the Onondago river. This lake is strongly impregnated with saline particles, which circumstance gave rise to its name. The Indians make their salt from it.

Lake Osego, at the head of Susquehannah river, is about nine miles long, and narrow.

Canaderago Lake is nearly as large as Lake Osego, and six miles west of it. A stream, by the name of Oaks Creek, issues from it, and falls into the Susquehannah river, about five miles below Osego. The best cheese in the state of New-York is made upon this creek.

Chatoque Lake is the source of Conawongo river, which empties into the Allegany. From the north-west part of this lake to Lake Erie, is nine miles, and was once a communication used by the French.

Face of the Country, Soil and Productions.] The state, to speak generally, is intersected by ridges of mountains running in a north-east and south-west direction. Beyond the Allegany mountains, however, the country is a dead level, of a fine, rich soil, covered in its natural state with maple, beech, birch, cherry, black walnut, locust, hickory, and some mulberry trees. On the banks of Lake Erie are a few chestnut and oak ridges. Hemlock swamps are interspersed thinly through the country. All the creeks that empty into Lake Erie have falls, which afford many excellent mill-seats.

East of the Allegany mountains, the country is broken into hills, with rich intervening vallies. The hills are clothed thick with timber, and when cleared, afford fine pasture; the vallies, when cultivated, produce wheat, hemp, flax, pease, grass, oats, Indian corn.

Of the commodities produced from culture, wheat is the staple, of which immense quantities are raised, and exported. Indian corn and pease are likewise raised for exportation; and rye, oats, barley, &c. for home consumption.

The best lands in this state lie along the Mohawks river, and west of the Allegany mountains, and are yet in a state of nature, or are just beginning to be settled.

Civil Divisions, Population, &c.] This state is divided into fourteen counties; which are divided into a number of townships, as in the following TABLE.

COUNTIES.

COUNTIES.	Chief Towns.	Total No. of Inhabit's. in 1786.	Blacks.	Apportion- ment of a tax of £.24,000	No. of Towns.
New-York,	New-York, City,	23,614	2103	£.6100	†
Albany,	Albany,	72,360	4690	2950	15
Suffolk,	East Hampton, Huntington,	13,793	1068	2000	8
Queens,	Jamaica,	13,084	2183	2000	6
Kings,	Flatbush, Brooklyn,	3,936	1317	900	6
Richmond,	Richmond,	3,152	693	450	4
West Chester,	Bedford, Whiteplains,	20,554	1250	1700	21
Orange,	Goshen, Orange,	14,062	858	1200	6
Ulster,	Kingston,	22,143	2662	1700	13
Dutchess,	Poughkeepsie,	32,636	1645	2550	12
Columbia*,	Hudson, Kinderhook,			1250	7
Washington,	Salem,	4,456	15	400	9
Clinton*,	Plattsburgh,				4
Montgomery,	Johnstown,	15,057	405	800	9
Tot. fourteen.		238,897	18,889	£.24,000	120

The number of inhabitants in this state, in 1786, was 238,897 ; of which 18,889 were negroes. By the census taken in 1790, it appears that there were then 324,127.

The unhappy spirit of disaffection and jealousy, which formerly subsisted, in a high degree, between the province of New-York and the New-England colonies, has,

* These two counties were not constituted in 1786, when the above enumeration was made, and were included in some of the other counties.

† Not mentioned in the act.

has, since the revolution, in a great measure subsided, and the growing liberality of both parties, and a wise and harmonizing government, will, it is probable, soon rise superior to all local prejudices, compose all differences, whether they are of a political, commercial or national kind, and form the whole into one band of affectionate BROTHERS.

The English language is generally spoken throughout the state, but is not a little corrupted by the Dutch dialect, which is still spoken in some counties. But as Dutch schools are almost, if not wholly discontinued, that language, in a few generations, will probably cease to be used at all. And the increase of English schools has already had a perceptible effect in the improvement of the English language.

The manners and character of the inhabitants of every colony or state, will take their colouring in a greater or less degree, from the peculiar manners of the first settlers. It is much more natural for emigrants to a settlement to adopt the customs of the original inhabitants, than the contrary, even though the emigrants should, in a length of time, become the most numerous. Hence it is that the neatness, parsimony and industry of the Dutch were early imitated by the first English settlers in this province, and, until the revolution, formed a distinguishing trait in their provincial character. It is still discernible, though in a much less degree, and will probably continue visible many years to come.

Besides the Dutch and English already mentioned, there are in this state many emigrants from Scotland, Ireland, Germany, and some from France.* The principal part of these are settled in the city of New-York; and retain the manners, the religion, and some of them, the language of their respective countries.

Chief

* The emigrants from France, who were Protestants, came over after the unjust revocation of the edict of Nantz, in 1685. It is remarkable that among the descendants of these French Protestants, there have been three Presidents of Congress, viz. the Honourable Henry Laurens, Elias Boudinot and John Jay, Esquires. Mr. Laurens and Mr. Jay have been Ambassadors at foreign courts—Mr. Jay is now Chief Justice of the United States, and Mr. Boudinot a Representative in Congress.

Chief Towns.] There are three incorporated cities in this state; New-York, Albany and Hudson.

NEW-YORK is the capital of the state, and stands on the southwest point of an island, at the confluence of Hudson and East Rivers. The principal part of the city lies on the east side of the island, although the buildings extend from one river to the other. The length of the city on East River is about two miles; but falls much short of that distance on the banks of the Hudson. Its breadth on an average, is nearly three fourths of a mile; and its circumference may be four miles. The houses are generally built of brick, and the roofs tiled.

The publick buildings are *Federal Hall*, which is a renovation of the old city hall, fitted up for the accommodation of Congress, under the direction of the ingenious Mons. L'Enfant.—It is one of the most elegant buildings in the United States. The other publick buildings are churches, belonging to the following denominations, viz.

Dutch,	3	Baptists,	2	Methodists,	2
Presbyterians,	4	Roman Cath- } olick,	1	Jews Syna- } gogue,	1
Episcopalians,	3	Quaker,	1	French Prot- } estant (out	1
German, Lu- } theran and	3	Moravians,	1	of repair)	
Calvinists,					

The government of the city (which was incorporated in 1696) is now in the hands of a Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council.

This city is esteemed the most eligible situation for commerce in the United States. It almost necessarily commands the trade of one half New-Jersey, most of that of Connecticut, and part of that of Massachusetts; besides the whole fertile interior country, which is penetrated by one of the largest rivers in America. This city imports most of the goods consumed between a line of thirty miles east of Connecticut river, and twenty miles west of the Hudson, which is 130 miles, and between the ocean and confines of Canada, about 250 miles; a considerable portion of which is the best peopled of any part of the United States, and the whole territory contains at least half a million people, or one sixth of the inhabitants of the union. A

A want of good water is a great inconvenience to the citizens ; there being few wells of good water in the city. Most of the people are supplied every day with fresh water, conveyed to their doors in casks, from a pump near the head of Queen-street.

New-York is the gayest place in America. The ladies, in the richness and brilliancy of their dress, are not surpassed in any city in the United States. They, however, are not solely employed in attentions to dress. There are many who are studious to add to their brilliant external accomplishments, the more brilliant and lasting accomplishments of the mind. Nor have they been unsuccessful ; for New-York can boast of great numbers of refined taste, whose minds are highly improved, and whose conversation is as inviting as their personal charms. Tinctured with a Dutch education, they manage their families with good economy and singular neatness.

An inquirer, who would wish to acquaint himself with the true state of the people of New-York, their manners and government, would naturally ask the citizens for their societies for the encouragement of sciences, arts, manufactures, &c. ? For their publick libraries ? For the patrons of literature ? Their well regulated academies ? For their female academy for instructing young ladies in geography, history, belles lettres, &c. ? Such inquiries might be made with propriety, but could not, at present, be answered satisfactorily. New-York contained, in 1786, 3340 houses and about 23,000 inhabitants. In 1790, 30,022 inhabitants.

ALBANY is situated upon the west side of Hudson's river, 160 miles north of the city of New-York. It contains upwards of 600 houses, built in the Old Dutch Gothick style, with the gable end to the street, which custom the first settlers brought with them from Holland. The inhabitants are a collection from almost all parts of the northern world. As great a variety of languages are spoken in Albany, as in any town in the United States. Adventurers, in pursuit of wealth, are led here by the advantages for trade which this place affords.

affords. Situated on one of the finest rivers in the world, at the head of sloop navigation, surrounded with a rich and extensive back country, and the store house of the trade to and from Canada and the Lakes, it must flourish, and the inhabitants cannot but grow rich. Hudson, however, is their rival. Other rivals may spring up.

HUDSON has had the most rapid growth of any place in America, if we except Baltimore, in Maryland. It is situated on the east side of Hudson's river, 130 miles north of New-York, and thirty miles south of Albany. It is surrounded by an extensive and fertile back country, and in proportion to its size and population, carries on a large trade.

Trade.] The situation of New-York, with respect to foreign markets, has decidedly the preference to any of the states. It has at all seasons of the year, a short and easy access to the ocean. We have already mentioned that it commands the trade of a great proportion of the best settled, and best cultivated parts of the United States.

Their exports to the West-Indies are, biscuit, pease, Indian corn, apples, onions, boards, staves, horses, sheep, butter, cheese, pickled oysters, beef and pork. But wheat is the staple commodity of the state, of which not less than 677,700 bushels were exported in the year 1775, besides 2,555 tons of bread, and 2,828 tons of flour. Inspectors of flour are appointed to prevent impositions, and to see that none is exported but that which is deemed by them merchantable. Besides the above mentioned articles, are exported flax-seed, cotton wool, sarsaparilla, coffee, indigo, rice, pig iron, bar iron, pot ash, pearl ash, furs, deer skins, log wood, fustick, mahogany, bees wax, oil, Madeira wine, rum, tar, pitch, turpentine, whale fins, fish, sugars, molasses, salt, tobacco, lard, &c. but most of these articles are imported for re-exportation. In the year 1774, there were employed, in the trade of this state, 1075 vessels, whose tonnage amounted to 40,812.

Medicinal

Medicinal Springs.] The most noted springs in this state are those of Saratoga. ~~They are eight or nine in~~ number, situated in the margin of a marsh, formed by a branch of Kayadaroffora Creek, about twelve miles west from the confluence of Fish Creek and Hudson's River. They are surrounded by a rock of a peculiar kind and nature, formed by the petrefaction of the water. One of them rises above the surface of the earth five or six feet, in the form of a pyramid.

The effects which the water produces upon the human body are various; the natural operation of it, when taken, is cathartick, in some instances an emetick. As it is drank, it produces an agreeable sensation in passing over the organs of taste, but as soon as it is swallowed, there succeeds an unpleasant taste, and the eructations which take place afterwards cause a pungency very similar to that produced by a draught of cider or beer, in a state of fermentation.

The following curious experiments made on these waters, were extracted from Dr. Mitchell's Journal.

' A young turkey held a few inches above the water in the crater of the lower spring, was thrown into convulsions in less than half a minute, and, gasping, shewed signs of approaching death; but on removal from that place, and exposure to the fresh air, revived, and became lively. On immersion again for a minute in the gas, the bird was taken out languid and motionless.

' A small dog put into the same cavity, and made to breathe the contained air, was, in less than one minute, thrown into convulsive motions—made to pant for breath, and lastly to lose entirely the power to cry or move; when taken out, he was too weak to stand, but soon, in the common air, acquired strength enough to rise and stagger away.

' A trout, recently caught, and briskly swimming in a pail of brook water, was carefully put into a vessel just filled from the spring; the fish was instantly agitated with violent convulsions, gradually lost the capacity to move and poise itself, grew stupid and insensible, and in a few minutes was dead. ' A

‘ A candle repeatedly lighted and let down near the surface of the water; was suddenly extinguished, and not a vestige of light or fire remained on the wick.’

The springs at New-Lebanon, in this state, are much celebrated, and are frequented, with various success, by great numbers of invalids.

Literature.] Since the revolution the literature of the state has engaged the attention of the legislature. In one of their late sessions an act passed, constituting twenty-one gentlemen (of whom the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, for the time being, are members *ex officio*) a body corporate and politick, by the name and style of ‘ The Regents of the University of the state of New-York.’ They are entrusted with the care of literature in general in the state, and have power to grant charters of incorporation for erecting colleges and academies throughout the state—are to visit these institutions as often as they shall think proper, and report their state to the legislature once a year. All degrees above that of master of arts are to be conferred by the regents.

Kings College, which was founded in 1754, is now called COLUMBIA COLLEGE. This college, by an act of the legislature passed in the spring of 1787, was put under the care of twenty-four gentlemen, who are a body corporate, by the name and style of ‘ The Trustees of Columbia College, in the city of New-York.’ This body possesses all the powers vested in the Governors of Kings College before the revolution, or in the Regents of the University since the revolution, so far as their powers respect this institution.

The library and museum were destroyed during the war. The philosophical apparatus cost about 300 guineas. Until the revolution the college did not flourish. The plan upon which it was originally founded was contracted, and its situation unfavourable. The former objection is removed, but the latter must remain. It has between thirty and forty students, in four classes. The number for several years has been increasing. The officers of instruction and
immediate

immediate government are, a president, professor of languages, professor of mathematicks, professor of logick and rhetorick, professor of natural philosophy, professor of geography, and a professor of moral philosophy. There are many other professors belonging to the university, but their professorships are merely honorary.

There are several academies in the state. One is at Flatbush, a pleasant, healthy village, in Kings county, on Long-Island, called *Erasmus Hall*. Another at East-Hampton, on the east end of Long-Island, by the name of CLINTON ACADEMY. There are other academies, or more properly grammar-schools, in different parts of the state.

Religion.] The various religious denominations in this state, with the number of their respective congregations, in 1788, were as follows.

<i>Denominations.</i>	<i>No. Cong.</i>	<i>Denominations.</i>	<i>No. Cong.</i>
English Presbyterian,	87	German Lutheran,	12
Dutch Reformed,	66	Moravians,	2
(Including six of the German		Methodists,	1
language.)		Roman Catholick,	1
Baptists,	30	Jews,	1
Episcopalians,	26	Shakers, unknown.	
Friends or Quakers,	20		

Constitution.] The supreme legislative powers of the state are vested in two branches, a *Senate* and *Assembly*. The members of the Senate are elected by the freeholders of the state, who possess freehold estates to the value of £.100, clear of debts. For the purpose of electing Senators, the state is divided into four great districts, each of which chooses a certain number.

The Assembly of the state is composed of Representatives from the several counties, chosen annually in May.

Every male inhabitant of full age, who has resided in the state six months preceding the day of election, and possessing a freehold to the value of twenty pounds, in the county where he is to give his vote; or has rented a tenement therein of the yearly value of forty shillings,

millings, and has been rated and actually paid taxes, is entitled to vote for representatives in assembly. The number of representatives is limited to three hundred. The present number is sixty-five.

The supreme executive power of the state is vested in a Governor, chosen once in three years by the free-men of the state. The Lieutenant-Governor is, by his office, President of the Senate ; and, upon an equal division of voices, has a casting vote ; but has no voice on other occasions. The Governor has not a seat in the Legislature ; but as a member of the Council of Revision and Council of Appointment, he has a vast influence in the state. The Council of Revision is composed of the Chancellor, the Judges of the Supreme Court or any of them, and the Governor.

Islands.] There are three ISLANDS of note belonging to this state ; viz. *York-Island*, which has already been described, *Long-Island* and *Staten-Island*.

LONG-ISLAND extends from the city of New-York east, 140 miles, and terminates with Montauk point. It is not more than ten miles in breadth, on a medium, and is separated from Connecticut by Long-Island sound. The island is divided into three counties : *King's*, *Queen's* and *Suffolk*.

The south side of the island is flat land, of a light sandy soil, bordered on the sea coast with large tracts of salt meadow, extending from the west point of the island to Southampton. This soil, however, is well calculated for raising grain, especially Indian corn. The north side of the island is hilly, and of a strong soil, adapted to the culture of grain, hay and fruit. A ridge of hills extends from Jamaica to Southhold. Large herds of cattle feed upon Hampstead plain, and on the salt marshes upon the south side of the island. Hampstead plain, in Queen's county, is a curiosity. It is sixteen miles in length, east and west, and seven or eight miles wide. The soil is black, and to appearance rich, and yet it was never known to have any natural growth, but a kind of wild grass, and a few shrubs. It is frequented by vast numbers of plover. Rye grows tolerably

tolerably well on some parts of the plain. The most of it lies common for cattle, horses and sheep. As there is nothing to impede the prospect in the whole length of this plain, it has a curious but tiresome effect upon the eye, not unlike that of the ocean.

Staten-Island lies nine miles southwest of the city of New-York, and forms Richmond county. It is about eighteen miles in length, and, at a medium, six or seven in breadth. On the south side is a considerable tract of level, good land; but the island in general is rough, and the hills high. Richmond is the only town of any note on the island, and that is a poor, inconsiderable place. The inhabitants are principally Dutch and French.

History.] Hudson's river was first discovered in 1608, by Henry Hudson, an Englishman, who sold his claim to the Dutch.

In 1614, the States General granted a patent to several merchants, for an exclusive trade on the river Hudson. The same year this company built a fort on the west side of the river, near Albany, and named it Fort Orange.

In 1614, Captain Argall, under Sir Thomas Dale, Governor of Virginia, visited the Dutch on Hudson's river, who being unable to resist him, prudently submitted for the present, to the King of England, and under him to the Governor of Virginia. Determined upon the settlement of a colony, the States General, in 1621, granted the country to the West-India Company; and in the year 1629, Wouter Van Twiller arrived at Fort Amsterdam, now New-York, and took upon himself the government.

In August 27, 1664. Governor Stuyvesant surrendered the colony to Colonel Nicolls, who had arrived in the bay a few days before, with three or four ships and about 300 soldiers, having a commission from King Charles the II. to reduce the place, which then was called New-Amsterdam, but was changed to New-York, as was Fort Orange to Albany, in honour of his Royal Highness James, Duke of York and Albany.

bany. Very few of the inhabitants thought proper to remove out of the country ; and their numerous descendants are still in many parts of this state, and New-Jersey.

In 1667, at the peace of Breda, New-York was confirmed to the English, who, in exchange, ceded Surinam to the Dutch.

The English kept peaceable possession of the country until the year 1673, when it was taken by the Dutch, but was restored to the English the following year.

The French, in 1689, in order to detach the six nations from the British interest, sent out several parties against the English colonies. One of the parties, consisting of about 200 French, and some of the Caghnuaga Indians, commanded by D'Ailldebout, De Mantel and Le Moyne, was intended for New-York. But by the advice of the Indians, they determined first to attack Skeneectady. For this place they accordingly directed their course, and after twenty days march, in the depth of winter, through the snow, carrying their provisions on their backs, they arrived in the neighbourhood of Skeneectady, on the 8th of February, 1690. Such was the extreme distress to which they were reduced, that they had thoughts of surrendering themselves prisoners of war. But their scouts, who were a day or two in the village entirely unsuspected, returned with such encouraging accounts of the absolute security of the people, that the enemy determined on the attack. They entered on Saturday night, about eleven o'clock, at the gates, which were found unshut ; and that every house might be invested at the same time, divided into small parties of six or seven men. The inhabitants were in a profound sleep, and unalarmed, until their doors were broke open. Never were people in a more wretched consternation. Before they were risen from their beds, the enemy entered their houses, and began the perpetration of the most inhuman barbarities. No tongue can express the cruelties that were committed. The whole village was instantly in a blaze. Women with child ripped open, and their infants cast