

No. 10

THE OLD CHURCH

“Where Burgomaster Antonides lives”—De Sille List, of 1660.

The church is presumed to have been built *c.* 1633, by Director van Twiller. It is mentioned in the deposition of Gillis Pietersen van der Gouw and others, dated April 16,

1639, respecting the public buildings which Kieft found in the colony on his arrival there in the *Haring* (Herring), March 28, 1638.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, XIV: 16-7; *N. Y. Col. MSS.*, I: 96 (Albany). Also, in Pietersen's deposition of March 22, 1639.—*Ibid.*, 81; *N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1841, p. 279. De Vries refers to it, in 1642, as "only a mean barn."—*Jameson's Nar. N. Neth.*, 212. In that year, the new church of St. Nicholas was built within the ramparts of the Fort, and the old church abandoned as a place of worship. Captain Newton (Nuton), of the garrison, had his dwelling here for a while, but it was resolved, April 4, 1656, to sell "the house, lot and buildings thereon called the Old Church" at public auction.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, XIV: 346. Jacob Wolphertsen van Couwenhoven became the purchaser, June 30, 1656 (*Liber HH*, 2: 58, Albany), but it was sold under execution September 8, 1656 to Isaac de Forest.—*Liber Deeds*, A: 71. De Forest built upon the plot a house "which was an ornament to the City" (*Cal. Hist. MSS.*, *Dutch*, 383), and which soon became the residence of Allard Anthony, the "Burgomaster Antonides" of the De Sille List.

Anthony was one of the most prominent citizens of New Amsterdam. Berthold Fernow says that he is "supposed to have been an Irishman."—*New Amsterdam Family Names*, in *Historic New York*, II: 219. He was one of the first lawyers in the colony, and often appeared as an attorney in litigations, becoming also a notary.—*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 278, 337; *Cal. of Coun. Min.*, 21; *Register of N. Neth.*, 123. He repeatedly served the city as burgomaster.—*Rec. N. Am.*, I: 49, 271, 281; III: 124, 261. He was city treasurer (*ibid.*, II: 97), schout (*ibid.*, V: 160), sheriff, under the English rule (*ibid.*, V: 251; VI: 261, 334), and represented the province in New England (*ibid.*, I: 72), as well as in Holland.—*Register of N. Neth.*, 136.

In 1682, Anthony acquired the property on the Strand where he had so long resided, from Sarah, widow of Isaac de Forest.—*Liber Deeds*, XII: 93. He married, March 25, 1656, Henrica Wessels, of Utrecht, who survived him, and who is mentioned, in 1686, in Domine Selyns's List, wherein she still appears as living "along the Strand."—*N. Y. Hist. Soc. Collections*, 1841, p. 393.