

ANTONIA

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Antonia by Jessie Van Zile Belden & Amy M. Sacker

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JESSIE VAN ZILE BELDEN & AMY M. SACKER

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By
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Illustrated by
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*"Dutch tulips from their beds
Flaunted their stately heads"*



BOSTON

1901

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To Holland

*Silent — Sturdy — Indomitable —
Who wrested a Nation from the Sea —*

THE seeds of perseverance planted
by thy people have blossomed and
borne fruit.

To-day a great city looks over the
waters which bore the ships of the
Dutch West India Company to the
coast of the New World.

Publisher's Note

THE idea that the early colonial settler in New Amsterdam was a stout-bodied soul, with a peaceful life and a prosperous *bouwerie*, is as picturesquely delightful as it is fallacious. The struggle for very existence of the Dutch colonists at the mouth of the Hudson River, along its banks, and at Rensselaerswyck (now the city of Albany) was as severe and as strenuous as among the Puritans of New England.

Perhaps there was no more critical period of New World growth than that in which the scenes of the following story assert themselves. Wilhelm Kieft, the governor of this frontier settlement on Manhattan Island, although a man of considerable energy of character, was irritable, capricious,