

**THE HOLLANDERS IN NOVA
ZEMBLA [1596-1597]. AN ARCTIC
POEM
TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH
OF HENDRICK TOLLENS, PP. 1-119**

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The Hollanders in Nova Zembla [1596-1597]. An Arctic Poem Translated from the Dutch of Hendrick Tollens, pp. 1-119 by Daniel van Pelt & Hendrik Tollens

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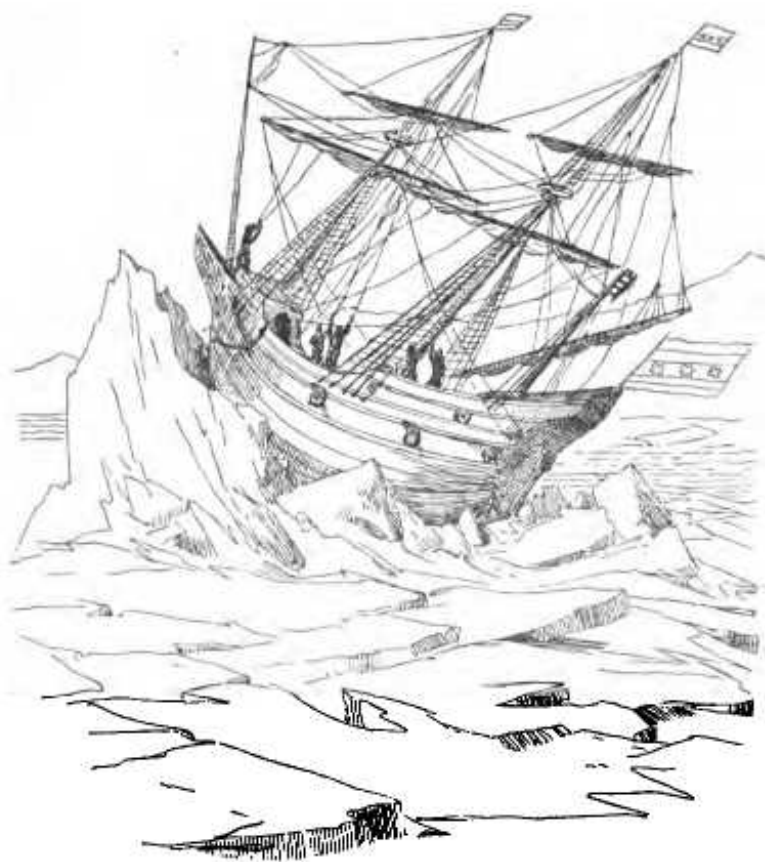
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DANIEL VAN PELT & HENDRIK TOLLENS

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*** High her bow
Points to the sky, her stern the meanwhile fixed
Within the frozen vice—'

Page 66.

THE HOLLANDERS IN
NOVA ZEMBLA

[1596-1597]

AN ARCTIC POEM

TRANSLATED FROM THE DUTCH OF HENDRIK TOLLENS

BY

DANIEL VAN PELT, A.M.

WITH A PREFACE AND AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

BY

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INCLUDING NOTES

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PREFACE TO THE TRANSLATION.

THE interest which has ever attached to the story of Arctic adventures—though usually associated as these adventures are with prose narration, and seemingly ill-calculated through want of romance for poetic description—may fairly render any apology for the appearance of this little work unnecessary with the reader ; however, it may not, perhaps, be out of place to explain the circumstances which have led to its appearance.

The labors of the writer, in his zeal for the renewal of Dutch Arctic research, until lately so long abandoned, and his incident investigation as to the past work of Holland in the field of Northern enterprise, led him early upon the story of the voyages of Barents and his companions three hundred years ago, so thrilling and so justly famous ; but the instinct of the Dutch to celebrate poetically the eloquent passages in their history was found to have made no exception even of this sombre episode, and it was soon discovered that their most

esteemed poet of the century had told the story in charming verse of the "Overwintering" of the Hollanders in Nova Zembla.

So struck was I, indeed, with this poem of Hendrik Tollens, that at the time of my writing (1876) I even sought a translation of it from a gifted hand in London. In this endeavor, however, though encouraged at first I was disappointed finally, and was obliged to content myself with the wish, expressed in the preface of my book, "that some poet, with the daring requisite to attempt the translation of this *chef-d'œuvre* of Dutch poesy, and possessing something of my own enthusiasm for Holland, would yet place at my disposal an English version of it in order that it might find a place in our language as a further contribution to this subject."¹

But my efforts did not cease here; for on returning from England, two or three years later, the matter was still kept in mind. Among those whom I then consulted in confirmation of my views—both as to the merits of the poem and the desirability of seeing it translated into English—was that learned critical student and writer, the Librarian of the American Geographical Society, whose letter relating to the subject I venture to give here, and whose encouragement of the present undertaking, in-

¹ "The Dutch in the Arctic Seas." (London, Trübner & Co., 1878.) Third Edition. Preface, p. xxxiv.