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ALONG THE DELAWARE BAY AND THE DELAWARE RIVER: PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE

Penn appears in American history as the wise founder of a State, the prudent and just magistrate, the liberal-minded lawgiver and ruler.—*Henry Cabot Lodge*

50. Delaware Claimed by the Dutch.—Our story has now brought us to the region of the Delaware Bay and the Delaware River. The strip of land on the west side of Delaware Bay, now known as the State of Delaware, was claimed and fought for by the Dutch, by the Swedes, and by the English. In 1609 Henry Hudson, in his search for a short route to India, entered the Delaware Bay, hoping that its waters might bear him on to the Pacific. But a sail of a few hours brought his vessel to marshes and mud-banks, and Hudson had to turn back, just as, a few months later, he had to turn back when he ran aground near Troy (p. 38). It was this trip of Hudson's up the Delaware Bay that led the Dutch to claim the entire Delaware region.

51. Delaware Settled by the Swedes.—But the Dutch were not allowed to hold the Delaware country in peace. In the early part of the seventeenth century Sweden, under the leadership of the great Gustavus Adolphus, began to hold up her head among the nations of Europe, and, like other wide-awake countries, began to plant colonies in America. In 1638 a company of Swedes, led by Peter Minuit—whom we have already seen in the service of the Dutch (p. 40)—built a fort on the Delaware near the spot where the city of Wilmington now stands and began a brisk trade in furs. The Swedes bought lands of the Indians and in a few years had several flourishing settlements along the Delaware. For a while it seemed that there was to be in America a New Sweden as well as a New England, a New France, and a New Spain. But trouble soon came to New