

PREFACE

The purpose of this volume, as Jonkheer van Eysinga explained in the Introduction to its predecessor (tomus 15), is to give the 'cadre historique général' within which the colonial conferences between England and the Netherlands in 1613 and 1615 were carried on. This has involved a number of enquiries in which I have been generously helped with information and advice by specialists. Some of these are mentioned at appropriate places in the footnotes, but I ought to express my gratitude here to the many friends who have answered my questions in conversation. To Professor R. W. Lee and Professor J. L. Brierly, I owe much in this as in many other connections. My thanks are also due to Miss Sylvia England for her transcripts of documents; to the Beit Fund in the University of Oxford which made a grant towards the expenses of transcription; to the Grotius Society for permission to reprint in an altered form passages from an article in the twentieth volume of their *Transactions* (relating to the conference of 1613), and to the editor of *History* and the publishers, Messrs Macmillan, for the like permission for some sentences from a review of Dr. Friis's book *Alderman Cockayne's Project*.

There is no need to describe the unforeseen interruptions which have caused this second volume to appear more than ten years later than the first. I must, however, thank Jonkheer van Eysinga most warmly for the indispensable help which his first volume has given me, and also for his patience in awaiting my own.

The substance of this book was used for the Ford Lectures for 1949-50 in the University of Oxford, and I am glad to record my gratitude to the Electors who did me the honour of inviting me to give those lectures.

Oxford, 25 July 1950.

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