

instructions, and to have them conformably mulcted, executed, and punished by the punishment set forth therein, to demand that upon his order and complaint all criminal matters and abuses shall be settled and abated, and all sentences be executed speedily and without delay, and to do further in this regard what a good and faithful sheriff is in duty bound to do, on the oath taken by him.

“ We command, therefore, all *burgemeesters*, *schepens*, and inhabitants within the jurisdiction of the aforesaid village to acknowledge and respect the aforesaid Roeloff Swartwout as our officer and sheriff as aforesaid, and if asked, to give him all necessary and possible assistance in the performance of his duties, for we have found this to be necessary for the service of the company and the promotion of justice.

“ Done at the meeting of the directors at Amsterdam, this fifteenth of April, A°. 1660.

“ Jacob Pergens.

“ By his order,

“ C. van Seventer.”¹

In the “instructions for Roeloff Swartwout, as provisional sheriff in the village on the Esopus, in New Netherland,” he was ordered to “take rank of the *burgemeesters* and *schepens*” of the place and sit in their meetings as president when they were judicial ones. To prevent “licentiousness and violence,” it was his duty “to be always at hand,” and have his deputies “go through the place,” and have them “in churches, on the market-place, and at other centres where people congregated.” He was also to take care that the village was “kept free from unruly people and pedlers.” For his services as sheriff he was allowed to “receive one-half of all civil fines,” and one-half of all fees for tax and court-notices, and one-third of everything that fell to the village in criminal cases, and also “such salary as in time” might “be allowed him.”²

In a letter to Director-General Stuyvesant, dated April 16, 1660, the Amsterdam directors wrote :

“ One Roeloff Swartwout, who now comes over with some young men and farmers to settle at the Esopus and engage in agriculture, has petitioned us here for the office of sheriff of that place, and although it is premature in our opinion, we have granted the aforesaid request to encourage the man, and to promote justice as soon as a court is established, and have engaged him in this quality provisionally on the usual emoluments and such further salary as may

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Correspondence, etc. 1659-1660, vol. xiii., p. 90. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 158-160.

² “*Instructie voor Roeloff Swartwout gaende voor provisioneële schout in den Dorpe aen Esopus in Nieuw Nederland, waar na deselve hem sal hebben te Reguleren.*” New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Correspondence, etc. 1659-1660, vol. xiii., p. 90.