

be granted him in due time, subject to our approval ; this for your Honors' information and government."

Having taken passage on the ship *de Bonte Koe* (the Spotted Cow), sailing from the port of Amsterdam, on April 15, 1660, Roeloff Swartwout reached New Netherland about the end of June, having brought with him divers agricultural implements and three farm-laborers: Cornelis Jacobz van Leeuwen, Arent Meuwens, from Gelderland, and Ariaen Huyberts, from Jena.

His appointment as provisional *schout* of Esopus greatly displeased the provincial authorities of New Netherland. They not only felt themselves slighted in not having it referred to them for approval, but considered themselves to have been treated with a spirit of contempt for which the Amsterdam directors of the West-India Company were censurable. Inasmuch as they were not disposed to incur any reproach for insubordination and obtrusive conduct, they nevertheless undertook to debase the character of Roeloff Swartwout and to depreciate his fitness for the office. In asserting that he had not yet reached his majority, they were untruthful, for he was then twenty-six years of age. In order to disparage him in the estimation of the lords-directors, they, on June 25, wrote :

"We have been very much astonished by the appointment to and the delivery of the sheriff's place at the Esopus to one Roeloff Swartwout as well because of his minority as on account of his unfitness for the place, especially when a court shall be needed there, which, as your Honors say, is as yet premature, as there is for the present no court of justice there, and it does not appear that one will be in a long while for want of inhabitants fit to sit upon the bench.

"Anyway, if in the course of time this should occur, a man of greater age, capacity, and esteem will be required to take the sheriff's place, he should be one, who, at the same time, would be able to attend then to the duties of a commissary for the company."<sup>1</sup>

The disrespect of the director-general and the provincial council in objecting to the appointment evidently affronted the lords-directors, for they wrote to those officials on September 20, saying :

"We have more reason to be astonished over the rejection of and objection to our choice made of the person of Roeloff Swartwout as sheriff on the Esopus than your Honors have had in regard to his having been chosen, in which as

<sup>1</sup> New York colonial manuscripts : New Netherland Correspondence, etc. 1659-1660, vol. xiii., pp. 84, 116.

Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 158, 177. Documentary history of New York, vol. iii., pp. 56, 57. Records of New Amsterdam. Edited by Berthold Fernow. 1897, vol. iii., p. 186.