

fair words, persuasions, and impositions to sign a certain document, known to your Honorable Worships, and whereas the petitioner, after further thinking of it, perceives that by signing the same officially he has made a grave mistake which he regrets from the bottom of his heart having done, and that on account of it he may get into difficulties unless he is pardoned by your Honorable Worships' special grace. Therefore, he, the petitioner, humbly turns to your Honorable Worships, praying and requesting that your Honorable Worships will first please to consider that the said error of signing was not committed by the petitioner intentionally but through credulousness and upon persuasion, while he confesses that he could not distinguish the office of an executive officer from that of a *commissary*.

"On the other hand your Honorable Worships will please to take into consideration that the petitioner (it is said without boasting), has heretofore never forgotten himself, but has always acted honestly and piously. Thirdly, your Honorable Worships' attention is called to the fact that the petitioner is encumbered with a wife and eight small children and has performed the *schout's* duties all through the war and the troubles on the Esopus, hoping that sometime after the end of these troubles the place would increase in wealth and population and that he would reap more profit and advantages from his office as *schout* than heretofore. He, the petitioner, has employed and consumed all his little means, and if your Honorable Worships should resolve to dismiss him from the place, which he trusts will not be done, he would be reduced to poverty, misery, and hardship. Whereas the petitioner really needs and requires the emoluments and profits of the said *schout's* office to support his large family and to protect and maintain honorably his little property, therefore he very humbly prays and requests that your Honorable Worships will please to pity and commiserate him and pardon his aforesaid error with special grace, reinstating the petitioner in his former position as *schout* and giving him a letter of pardon *in optimâ formâ*, while he, the petitioner, promises to serve as *schout* honestly and faithfully, with due regard and obedience to his superiors, and with courtesy, urbanity, modesty, temperateness, and simplicity towards the inhabitants there. He hopes to perform henceforth his aforesaid duties in such a manner that your Honorable Worships will not only have reason to continue him but also to promote him. Which doing he remains

"Your Noble, Worshipful Honors' humble subject,
"ROELOFF SWARTWOUT."¹

The undoubted truthfulness with which the candid petitioner cogently presented his plea for forgiveness and the evident straits to which the recent Indian

¹New York colonial manuscripts : New Netherland Correspondence, vol. xv., p. 113.
Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 357, 358.