

outbreak had reduced him financially, appealed too strongly to their humanness to prevent them rendering an adverse decision to his forcible request. They therefore with but little severity of manner granted him the desired pardon and reinstated him in the office of *schout* by the following order :

“The Director-General and Council of New Netherland received and read the humble petition of Roeloff Swartwout, who has served as *schout* in the village of Wiltwijck and was suspended for reasons, as he confesses, that he made a grave mistake by not obeying the orders of the Director-General and Council, and regrets having done so, asking that the error committed by him might be forgiven ; therefore, although the unfitness of the said Roeloff Swartwout to act as *schout* to the advantage of the Honorable Company and the good inhabitants has several times become apparent, the Director-General and Council graciously forgive this time, in the hope of amendment, the committed error, and reinstate the said Swartwout into the office of *schout*.

“Actum Fort Amsterdam, in New Netherland, the 14th February, A^o 1664.”¹

The multiplying evidences of a wider settlement of the country north, west, and south of Wiltwijck having suggested the profitableness of having a deputy of the West-India Company reside there “for the administration and promotion” of its “affairs in the Esopus and its neighborhood,” Wilhelm Beeckman, who had served several years in the same capacity on the South (Delaware) River, was appointed, on July 4, 1664, by the director-general and council of New Netherland, as their *commissary* and chief officer at Wiltwijck.² As the performance of the *schout's* duties was involved in this appointment, the services of Roeloff Swartwout as *schout* were terminated by it.

The English having claimed the territory on the assumption that John Cabot discovered the mainland of North America in 1497, Charles II., King of England, granted, on March 12, 1664, a royal patent to his brother James, the Duke of York and Albany, giving him all the territory of New England, and “all that island or islands commonly called by the several name or names of Matowacks, or Long Island,” also the stream “called Hudson’s river and all the land from the west side of Connecticut to the east side of Delaware Bay.”

In 1664, Colonel Richard Nicolls was sent with four ships and a force of four hundred and fifty soldiers to take possession of New Netherland. In the latter part of the month of August, that year, the fleet took anchorage in Nyack Bay, north of the Narrows, on the west side of Long Island, without hindrance. The West-India Company, unprepared as it was by its penurious policy to oppose the entrance of these ships of war into waters under its jurisdiction, was

¹ Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 357, 358.

² *Ibid.*, p. 385.