

The papistical bigotry of King James II., it is said, was particularly favorable for the furtherance of the political interests of France in Canada. In order to render Roman Catholicism dominant in the province of New York, as related by Dunlap, "he ordered Governor Dongan to favor the introduction of priests and Jesuits among [the five tribes or nations of Indians, inhabiting the northern part of the province of New York and known as] the Iroquois, but the governor, although himself a papist and willing to aid in bringing over the colonists to the religion of himself and master, was too prudent as a politician not to see that the intention of the French was to gain the Five Nations from the English interest by pushing their emissaries among them under pretence of propagating the Christian religion. Dongan saw that the Jesuits acted as spies for the governors of Canada and counteracted the efforts of the English to introduce and increase the trade of the province he governed as well as to overcome, in the Iroquois, that jealousy of France, which made them a frontier rampart to New York in time of war. Though active in otherwise promoting the king's religious views * * * * the governor insisted that the French should not hold conferences under the pretence of making treaties with the Iroquois without his intervention. * * * *

"Dongan did not give up the point but continued his exertions among the Iroquois, whose alliance he saw was so necessary to New York. This, with his continuing in other respects not to press the arbitrary measures of James, caused the king to add New York to the other dominions already entrusted to the more compliant, or more tyrannic disposition of Sir Edmund Andros, and thus supersede Dongan at a time when the discontents of the people and their fears of popery were ready to break forth in England, to the overthrow of James, and in America to the suspension of both his governors and the annihilation of his government."¹

By the annexation of the territory of Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, and the Jerseys to that of the other English provinces north of them, by King James II., on April 5, 1688, the province of New York became then a part of the territory called New England, over which Sir Edmund Andros, as governor, exercised provincial authority. Having thus been superseded as governor of New York, Colonel Thomas Dongan retired to his farm on Long Island, where he continued to reside until 1691.

"It is well known," says Dunlap, "that James endeavored to make every institution bend to his arbitrary will and to his intention of making the religion of Rome predominant within his territories. He exercised what is called the *dispensing power* to establish, contrary to existing laws, papists in offices of

¹ History of the New Netherlands, province of New York, and state of New York. By William Dunlap. 1839, vol. i., pp. 148, 149.