

under his command in the city of New York to disregard the authority of Captain Leisler as commander-in-chief of the militia of the province, he, on October 20, addressed a letter to "Captain Abram de Peyster and Captain John de Bruyn, commanders of the two respective companies of the trained bands in New York;" writing them:

"Whereas, Jacob Leisler and some of his associates have in a hostile and illegal manner invaded their majesties' fort at New York, and withal infringed and subverted all manner of government by law established within the city of New York and some parts adjacent, not having the least shadow of authority from our gracious sovereigns, King William and Queen Mary, so to do, I, therefore, considering the obligations lying upon me by the several commissions as being one of the council of this their majesties' dominions and colonel of the regiment of the train bands in New York, both from the crown of England, neither of which (notwithstanding the said invasion, insurrection, or other troubles), are [in] any ways vacated or superseded, find it to be my present duty to the crown of England, and do hereby strictly require and command you, and each of you, that you, upon immediate sight hereof, desist from any ways counselling, aiding, assisting, or abetting the illegal proceedings of the said Jacob Leisler and his associates, and not to suffer any of the soldiers under [your] command to be made use of or employed upon any service whatsoever of the said Leisler, either in the fort or elsewhere, as being most pernicious, dangerous, and contrary to the peace of [our] sovereign lord and lady, King William and Queen Mary, their crown and dignity."<sup>1</sup>

The discrediting assertion of Colonel Bayard that Captain Leisler and his associates "had not the least shadow of authority" from King William and Queen Mary, was untrue. Relating how King James's officials had been deposed in the city of New York, Bancroft observes:

"A committee of safety of ten assumed the task of reorganizing the government, and Jacob Leisler received the commission to command the fort of New York. Of this he gained possession without a struggle. An address to King William was forwarded, and a letter from Leisler was received by that prince, if not with favor, yet with respect, and without rebuke."<sup>2</sup>

About the beginning of December, a messenger, named John Riggs, brought from England to the city of New York two dispatches addressed: "To our trusty and well-beloved Francis Nicholson, Esq., our lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief of our province of New York in America; and, in his absence, to such as for the time being take care of the peace and administering the laws in our said province of New York in America." The com-

<sup>1</sup> Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed., vol. ii., pp. 36, 37.

<sup>2</sup> History of the United States. By George Bancroft. 14th ed., vol. iii., pp. 51, 52.