

munications, one from their majesties' privy council, and the other from his majesty, King William III., had been written in the latter part of July before the arrival in England of Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson.

As related by Dunlap, Colonel Nicholas Bayard, who had clandestinely come from Albany to New York to visit a sick son, "was at this time secreted in his own house [in the city of New York]. Another [former member] of the council of [Governor Thomas] Dongan and King James was likewise in town, Frederick Phillipse, a man only distinguished for his riches. To him, Bayard, ever restless and on the watch to get himself or others into trouble, or power, sent a notice of the arrival of Riggs, and persuaded Phillipse to seek the king's messenger and bring him to the place of Bayard's concealment. Riggs was accordingly brought by Phillipse on the night after his arrival to the house of Colonel Bayard, who, in conjunction with his fellow king's-counsellor and officer of James, a passive instrument in his hands, endeavored to persuade the bearer of dispatches that, although the government of the province was in other hands and the governor's council had not met for months, the latter belonged to such of the council as were to be found, *viz.*, Bayard and Phillipse."

In commenting upon the attempt of Bayard and Phillipse to obtain possession of the dispatches intended for the person who was preserving the peace and administering the laws of the province, Dunlap makes the following observations concerning "the notions" held by the so-called "gentry" and "people of figure," who, on account of their wealth and association with the immediate officers of the king's government—the governors, lieutenant-governors, and military leaders *born in Europe*, and bearing commissions emanating from his *sacred majesty*—deemed themselves "favorites of royalty," and as such "distinguished and separated them from *the people*. They were provincial nobles, deriving splendor, though at second-hand, from the fountain of honor; whether a licentious Charles, the hired tool of France, or a bigoted James, the worshipper of Rome and the pope."<sup>1</sup>

On learning the arrival of the messenger with letters addressed to Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson, or in his absence to the person administering the government, Captain Leisler sent an escort of soldiers to conduct their majesties' courier to the province-house. On the delivery of the dispatches, he, as advised by the Committee of Safety, opened and read them. On making known their purport, the committee further advised him to regard himself as temporarily empowered to discharge the duties of a lieutenant-governor and commander-in-chief of the province.

Among the delegates sent to the provincial assembly, convened in the city

<sup>1</sup> History of the New Netherlands, province of New York, and state of New York. By William Dunlap. 1839. Vol. I., pp. 166-168.