

Unwilling to be regarded as "at the beck and call" of the disaffected people of Albany, and having the opportunity to afford them the requested aid in a way peculiarly objectionable to the arrogant and dissembling burghers of the frontier city, the acting lieutenant-governor and council, on March 4, constituted and empowered Johannes de Bruyn, Johannes Provoost, and Jacob Milborne, to take into their care and under their direction and command all the forces then raised in the city of New York and the adjacent counties, with ammunition and provisions, and proceed forthwith to Albany, where they were to superintend, direct, order, and control all matters and things relating to his majesty King William's interest and the security and safety of his people.<sup>1</sup>

The need of corn for the provincial forces at Albany caused the commissioners to authorize Roeloff Swartwout, collector of the king's revenue in Ulster County, to procure from the farmers in his district as much as they could spare, and ship it at his earliest opportunity. The following translation of a letter shows his painstaking to obtain the quantity of grain desired :

" Captain Milborne, friends and brothers :

" I cordially salute you. Your communication of April 5th has been shown me. I have obtained as much maize as I could find, which I send to your honors by Teunis Pietersen's yacht. I am busy in getting as much money for the king's revenue as will satisfy the people from whom I obtained the corn. The sum will appear on the list enclosed.

" Touching the election of two delegates [to attend the convention of representatives from the counties to be held in May in the city of New York], it will be done on the 15th inst. It was put off until your honors' arrival here. I fear a contest about it. I admit it ought to be a free election for all classes, but I would be loath to allow those to vote or to be voted for who have refused to this day to take the oath [of allegiance], lest so much leaven might again taint that which is sweet, or our head men, which probably might happen.

" I received yesterday a letter from Pieter De la Noy. There is no further news from sea. I expect rapid progress and consequent success for the expedition against the French, our enemies, both by water and by land.

" I shall expect to see your honors on the arrival here of the [yacht] coming down. In closing I commend your honors to God's protection, and remain

" Your honors' servant to command.

" ROELOFF SWARTWOUT.

" Kingston, Ulster County.

" April 11, 1690.

" To Captain Jacob Milborne, at present at Albany."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed. vol. ii., pp. 179-181.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 179-181; 191, 192, 195; 230, 231.