

till orders shall come from their majesties, and that the said Captain Jacob Leisler shall have all aid and assistance, if need be, and demanded by him, from [this] city and county, to suppress any foreign enemy, and prevent all disorders which evidently may appear."¹

On June 13, the General Court of Connecticut, sitting at Hartford, having appointed Major Nathan Gold and Captain James Fitch to visit New York and confer with Captain Leisler regarding the means for the protection of the two contiguous provinces in the event of an insurrection of the Roman Catholic inhabitants and a descent from Canada upon the provinces by the forces of the King of France, the Connecticut Commissioners, on the day following their arrival in the city of New York (June 22), gave Captain Leisler copies of English newspapers in which was an order for the proclamation of King William and Queen Mary as occupants of the throne of England, in all places over which they were reigning sovereigns. Captain Leisler immediately "had the drum beaten" for the parade of the military composing the garrison of the fort, and had "the king and the queen proclaimed." In honor of the event, he changed the name of Fort James to that of Fort William. Proceeding with a number of officers and soldiers to the City-hall, he assembled a concourse of citizens by the sound of a trumpet and then had the proclamation read there. The occasion, it is related, was marked with many expressions of gladness on the part of the people. The mayor and other municipal officials—who had with considerable bitterness of invective and political rancor declaimed against the action of the Committee of Safety in selecting Captain Leisler as commandant of Fort James—came later to the place where the people had congregated to hear the proclamation read, and as a consequence of their tardiness were not received with such displays of deference and respect as were usually extended them by the citizens. It is further related, that Captain Leisler courteously invited the city officials to accompany him to Fort William, to drink the healths of the king and the queen, "but their fears made it an uneasy visit, and they soon retired thinking themselves not safe." Later in the day, while the commissioners from Connecticut were inspecting Fort William in company with Captain Leisler, the turret of the old stone church was discovered on fire in three places, and as the magazine of the fort, which was near the edifice, contained about six thousand pounds of powder, the wildest excitement prevailed until the flames were extinguished. The fire was forthwith regarded as being "a papistical design, hellishly wicked and cruel," and projected for the destruction of the commandant, the commissioners, and the garrison.

At a convention held at Albany, on August 1, and attended by the munic-

¹ Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed., vol. ii., p. 11.