

Courten, Thomas Williams, and Abraham Brasier "attainted of treason and murder," which the king approved on May 3, 1695, repealed, reversed, made and declared null and void * * * * the said several convictions, judgments, and attainders of the said Jacob Leisler, deceased, Jacob Milborne, deceased, and the said Abraham Gouverneur, and every of them."¹

The other active partisans of these patriotic and loyal men, who were named with them in the bill of May 16, 1691, which excepted them from pardon, were also declared, in 1699, innocent and free from any imputations of treason as set forth in "an act for indemnifying of all such persons as were excepted out of the general pardon made by act of General Assembly in this province in the year of our Lord 1691."

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that all and every of the above named * * * * [among them Roeloff Swartwout, and Anthony, his son], be and are hereby forever indemnified for all and every of their actings in the late happy revolution, as aforesaid; and all judgments and executions had against their persons or estates for, or by reason as aforesaid, are hereby declared to be null and void, and the same are hereby repealed and reversed, any law, usage, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."²

A further recognition of the loyalty and patriotism of the men, who not only actively co-operated with Captain Leisler to preserve the peace of the province and advance the welfare of the inhabitants, but generously contributed money to defray the expenses of the government, was justly made by the passage, in 1717, of "an act for paying and discharging several debts due from this colony to the persons therein named," and for "divers services performed during the time of the late happy rebellion."

As will be seen, the liquidation of Roeloff Swartwout's contribution was authorized by the following provision of the act:

"To Thomas Swartwout, Barnardus Swartwout, and Jacob Kip [a son-in-law], their or either of their executors or assigns, for themselves and the rest of the children of Roeloff Swartwout, deceased, and their executors and assigns, the quantity of sixty-four ounces ten pennyweight of plate aforesaid, to be equally divided among them."³

Bancroft, commenting on the execution of Leisler and Milborne, truthfully remarks: "The event struck deep into the public mind. Long afterward their friends, who were distinguished always by their zeal for popular power, for toleration, for opposition to the doctrine of legitimacy, formed a powerful,

¹ 6-7 Will. iii. Anno. 1695. Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed., vol. ii., pp. 435-437.

² Laws and acts of the General Assembly. Bradford (1694), pp. 163, 164.

³ Acts of Assembly from 1691 to 1725. Bradford (1726), pp. 137, 163, 165.