

grace, certaine knowledge, and mere mocon, we have given, granted, ratified, and confirmed, and by these presents do, for us, our heirs, and successours, give, grant, ratifye, and confirme unto the said Jacob Codebec, Thomas Swartwout, Anthony Swartwout, Barnardus Swartwout, Jan Tys, Peter Gimar, and David Jamison, the quantity of twelve hundred acres within the limites and bounds aforesaid, where most convenient for them, * * * * [they] yielding, rendering, and paying therefore unto us, our heirs, and successours, at our city of New Yorke, on the feast-day of the Annunciacon of our blessed Virgin Mary, for the first seven years next ensuing, twenty shillings yearly currt. money of New Yorke, and thereafter forever the annuall rent of forty shillings like money. * * * *

“In testimony whereof we have caused the great seale of our province of New Yorke aforesaid to be hereunto affixed.

“Witnesse our trusty and welbeloved Col^l. Benjamin ffletcher, captain-generall and governour-in-chiefe of our province of New Yorke and the territoryes depending thereon in America, and vice-admirall of the same, our lieut. and commander-in-chiefe of the militia and of all the forces, by sea and land, within our colony of Connecticut and of all the fforts and places of strength within the same.

“In council, at New Yorke, the fourteenth day of October, in the ninth year of our reigne, annoy Domini, 1697.

“BEN. FFLETCHER.

“By his excellencyes command.

“DAVID JAMISON,
“D. Sec'ry.”¹

On dividing the land purchased from the Indians according to the agreement of June 3, 1696, Gerrit Aertsen and company were unwilling that Thomas Swartwout and company should have, as had been stipulated, seventy-seven morgens or one hundred and fifty-four acres “out of the land of Manjoar, the Indian,” and at the same time objected to the restriction which excluded them from occupying any other part of the purchased land except Great and Little Minnessinck. Under the pretext that the land described in the letters-patent granted the two companies was too ambiguously defined and would occasion differences between them as well as law-suits, and further, by asserting that the letters-patent of Thomas Swartwout and company had been surreptitiously obtained, they attempted to beguile the Earl of Bellamont, Governor Fletcher's successor, and the members of the General Assembly to

¹ Book of patents, in the office of the secretary of the state of New York. 7, pp. 167-169.