

A similar order was transmitted the same day to Colonel Joseph Drake, commanding a regiment of Westchester County minute-men.

King's Bridge, which spanned *Spuiten Duivel Kill*, flowing into the Hudson at the north end of Manhattan Island, was a wooden structure, on the post-road running thence northward and eastward by divergent highways. The cannon, at a point north of the bridge, where Colonel Drake had been ordered to leave a guard, it may be well to remark here, had been spiked recently by Tories residing in that neighborhood.

Colonel Jacobus Swartwout promptly obeyed the order and marched his partly organized regiment of minute-men to the city of New York, where he arrived on the fifteenth day of February. On that day the provincial congress, then in session in the city, planning to provide quarters for the troops ordered there, expressed its preliminary action in the following preamble and resolution :

"Whereas, a large body of troops are daily expected from the neighboring counties and colonies for the defence of this city against the ministerial army and navy, in which case it will be necessary (as the barracks are already filled with those already arrived) to provide proper houses for their reception: It is therefore

"Resolved and ordered, that the general committee for the city and county of New York be requested forthwith to cause a return to be made to them of all the empty houses in this city, and that they, or a sub-committee of their body, select a sufficient number of the said houses for the accommodation of the troops that shall from time to time arrive."

On February 16 the provincial congress, having been informed "that the floors were laid in the hospital lately erected in this city," resolved, "that Colonel Swartwout be authorized to demand the keys of the hospital, lately erected in this city, and open the same; that he examine the rooms and apartments, and if he think them proper for quartering troops in, that he be authorized to make use of the same for his regiment of minute-men."

In a communication addressed to the provincial congress by Colonel Jacobus Swartwout on February 20, in which, after referring to the companies severally commanded by Captain John Schenck, Captain Joshua Barnum, and Captain James Weeks, belonging to his regiment, with which he had arrived in the city, he remarks: "I expect the following captains in hourly: Captain Phenix Woodward, from Pawling's precinct; Captain Comfort Ludington, from Fredericksburgh precinct; Captain William Clarke, from Beekman's precinct, and Captain John Dorlon, from Rombout precinct."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Journals of the provincial congress. Albany, 1842, vol. i., pp. 301, 303, 312, 313.