

functions of his office in time of war. His presence on the frontier during the progress of the expedition was, doubtless, detrimental to the service, and he left for the seat of government at a moment when the counsel and direction of a judicious secretary of war were most needed."<sup>1</sup>

The liability of the city of New York as well as other important places in the state to be attacked by British forces caused Governor Tompkins, on the twentieth of July, 1814, to order and direct that the militia in the less-exposed parts of the state should be "kept in complete order for service, and ready to march at a moment's warning, to any part of the state which might be attacked or in immediate danger of being attacked."

At that time, Cornelius, the third son of Cornelius and Sarah Bedell Swartwout, then thirty-six years of age, was quartermaster of the brigade of Rensselaer County militia, commanded by Brigadier-General Gilbert Eddy, under an appointment made on March 2, 1814, he having been a captain of a company in the one hundred and fifty-fifth regiment composed of Rensselaer County militia.<sup>2</sup> He had been made an ensign in Lieutenant-Colonel Adam Yates's regiment of Rensselaer County militia, on June 4, 1808, from which position he was promoted to that of captain on May 24, 1809. His brother James, eight years his junior, was appointed an ensign on May 20, 1812, and on March 2, 1814, lieutenant in the one hundred and fifty-fifth regiment of Rensselaer County militia, then under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Davis.

The perilous situation of the city of New York, in the latter part of August, 1814, made the presence and service there of the militia of the interior of the state at once imperative. By general orders, issued on August 29, the following requisitions were made by the commander-in-chief:

"The detached regiments, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonels Visscher and Davis, will rendezvous, on Monday, the fifth of September, at Albany and Troy, at ten o'clock, in the forenoon, and being there consolidated into battalions, by the respective brigadier-generals, will repair forthwith to New York.

"The artillery, light infantry, and grenadier companies of the counties of

<sup>1</sup> Historical sketch of the second war between the United States of America and Great Britain. By Charles J. Ingersoll, vol. i., p. 302. The pictorial field-book of the war of 1812. By Benson J. Lossing, pp. 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655.

<sup>2</sup> "State of New York, General Orders, Head-quarters, Albany, February 16, 1814.

"A Board of Officers is hereby constituted to settle rank between Captains Swartwout and Deforest of the 155th Regiment of Infantry. The board will consist of Lt. Col. Thomas Davis, as President, and of Lt. Col. Van Schovenhoven, Major Vandercook, and Major Salisbury of the Infantry, of Majors Knickerbocker and Brees of the Cavalry, and Major Koon of the Rifle Corps. The Board will meet at Pearce's tavern, in the village of Troy, on Thursday the 24th day of February instant, at 12 o'clock in the day; of which meeting the President will forthwith notify the members of the Court, Capt<sup>n</sup> Swartwout and Capt<sup>n</sup> Deforest. The President of the board is directed without delay to report the facts which may be found by the Board of officers with their opinion thereon.

"By order of the Commander-in-chief,

"Robert Macomb, aid-de-camp." \*

\* D. D. Tompkins' papers, vol. I., p. 470.