

“character of Lord Cornbury, a near relation of the Queen, is  
 “well known to the readers of our early history to have been  
 “vicious in the extreme. There was, moreover, no bounds to  
 “his extravagance. Soon after he took possession of the gov-  
 “ernment he became unsupportably tyrannical and arbitrary.  
 “Parties existed even at that early period, and the Governor had  
 “his adherents. It is, however, a source of satisfaction to the  
 “writer that the Speaker was not of that number; but that he  
 “was possessed of courage, energy, and ability sufficient to op-  
 “pose and check the encroachments of Lord Cornbury upon the  
 “privileges of the Assembly and country; and as an inevitable  
 “consequence we find him obnoxious to his high displeasure.  
 “Thwarted in some of his lawless measures by the position and  
 “influence of the Speaker, and as the only method of gaining  
 “the object he desired, he abruptly dismissed the Assembly, and  
 “issued the writs for a new election. He dismissed the Assem-  
 “bly ‘with many more encomiums than many of them received  
 “on their return to their homes.’ The character and ability of  
 “Mr. Gardiner secured his reëlection, notwithstanding the op-  
 “position of the Governor and his adherents; but the majority  
 “of the delegates were of a different stamp, and tamely suffered  
 “the intrigues and arbitrary practices of Cornbury to deprive  
 “them of the services of three of their most influential mem-  
 “bers, Thomas Gardiner, Thomas Lambert, and Joseph Wright,  
 “under the pretense of not owning land enough to qualify them  
 “to sit there, though they were known to be men of large and  
 “sufficient estates, and the same Assembly at their next meeting  
 “at Amboy, in 1705, themselves declared that ‘the members had  
 “heretofore fully satisfied the House of their being duly qualified  
 “to sit in the same,’ and they were then admitted to their seats—  
 “the purposes of their exclusion having been answered. This  
 “sitting was in October and November. These purposes were  
 “the ejection of Gardiner from the Speakership, and the election  
 “of a more pliant instrument in the hands of the Governor.”

He was one of the members of the Council of Proprietors for  
 the years 1706, 1707, 1708, and 1709, in which year the Council  
 and Assembly procured the recall of Lord Cornbury and the ap-  
 pointment of Lord Lovelace in his place.\*

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\* Smith's *History of New Jersey.*