

"by definite judgment to the amount of fifty guilders and below it, without appeal," all cases as should be brought before it "relative to the police, security, and peace of the inhabitants." The sheriff was required to "summon, in the name of the director-general and the council, the appointed *schepens*," and to "preside at their meeting," "collect the votes and act as secretary until further ordered, or until the population increased."<sup>1</sup>

Deeming it expedient as well as courteous for him to open a way for his installation as sheriff of the settlement, Roeloff Swartwout formally petitioned the provincial authorities to invest him with the office by sending them the following request :

"To the Worshipful, Valiant and Rigorous, the Right Honorable Director-General and High Council of New Netherland :

"I, Roeloff Swartwout, request very respectfully their Noble Honors, the Worshipful Director-General and High Council of New Netherland, while I submit myself as a subject to your Honors' wise government, that whereas the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director-General has been pleased to favor and provide us here in Wiltwijck with a lower court of justice for the safety of the pious inhabitants and punishment of evil-doers, so that we may now live in freedom and peace, your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Worships of the High Council, not excepting the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Director-General, or all your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Worships together, will please to consider me worthy to serve here in the capacity of *schout* and I produce herewith the recommendation from the Lords-Directors of the Incorporated West-India Company, my Lords and Masters, submitting obediently to your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Worships' order and asking herewith for a short marginal decision.

"Thus by me, your Hon<sup>ble</sup> Worships' humble and obedient servant.

"ROELOFF SWARTWOUT.

"Actum Wiltwijck,

"the 16th May, Anno 1661."

"In haste."

This petition he addressed "To the Valiant, Wise, Very Learned Governor-General and the High Council of New Netherland."<sup>2</sup>

The following minute of the action taken on the commission of the applicant is entered in the record of the proceedings of the meeting of the director-general and council of New Netherland, held on May 23 :

"The foregoing letter of Roeloff Swartwout was opened and read in council, in which he substantially requests to be appointed and installed as *schout* for the Esopus. Although the Director-General and Council do not deem the said Swartwout a fit person for that office for several reasons, yet taking up again

<sup>1</sup> Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 195, 196, 197, 198.

<sup>2</sup> New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, vol. ix., p. 619.  
Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., p. 199.