

be freed from bearing any part thereof, and this to be a final end and determination of the matter between the parties upon this occasion." ¹

In 1678, Jacob Leisler, while on a voyage to Europe, was, with several other citizens of New York, made a prisoner by the Turks, and for his freedom was compelled to pay two thousand and fifty pieces of eight, having the value in United States coin of two thousand four hundred and sixty dollars. His companions were ransomed with money subscribed by people of the province of New York. Governor Thomas Dongan, influenced by the wealthy merchant's standing and ability, appointed him, on September 15, 1683, one of the commissioners of the Court of Admiralty sitting in the city of New York. His popularity and integrity caused him to be selected, on September 10, 1684, a captain of one of the five militia companies of the city. His sympathy for the distressed Huguenot refugees, who were seeking an asylum in America, led him to purchase for them, on September 20, 1689, of John and Rachel Pell, six thousand acres of land, now embraced in the township of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York. His popularity as a military officer, it will be seen, led him into a different field of official service and fame.

The month of May, 1689, had nearly ended before any further commotion arose among the citizens of New York affecting their subjection to the commands to the officers appointed by Governor Andros under commissions from King James II. The "fret and tumult," which, in April, had influenced Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson to permit details from the five companies of the city militia, commanded by Colonel Nicholas Bayard, to form a part of the garrison of Fort James, had wholly disappeared when a report of the summary action of the people of Albany in taking charge of the fort in that place reached the city. The accounts of the revolution in England carried to Albany by the commissioners from Boston also became current. The excited Protestants residing in the city at once began clamorously to demand the immediate withdrawal of the English officers and soldiers from Fort James.

The first direct step evidently taken to accomplish this change in the military protection of the city was made on Thursday, the thirtieth of May, when Lieutenant Hendrick Cuyler, commanding the guard of the city militia on duty in the fort, ordered Hendrick Jacobsen, a corporal in Captain Abraham de Peyster's company, to place a sentinel at the sally-port, but was not permitted by one of the king's soldiers. On the following day a number of the city militiamen set forth, in a public declaration, certain facts relating to an interview held with Lieutenant-Governor Nicholson by Lieutenant Cuyler, which had led them to proclaim themselves free from obedience to King James's officers. Be-

¹ Documentary history of the state of New York, 8vo ed., vol. ii., pp. 872-879.