

published a declaration that "as soon as the bearer of orders from the prince of Orange shall let us see his power, then without delay we do intend to obey, not the orders only, but also the bearer thereof."

Massachusetts and Connecticut gave countenance to his measures, and his authority was soon generally acknowledged by the middle and lower classes. Nicholson,\* the lieutenant governor, fled to England, and Courtlandt, the mayor of New York, Colonel Bayard, and others of his council, "gentlemen of figure," unable to brook the ascendancy of a man, "mean in his abilities, and inferior in his degree," retired to Albany and seized the fort there, declaring that they held it for William and Mary, but would maintain no connection with Leisler. Each party now professed allegiance to the same sovereign, and denounced the other as rebels. Leisler sent Milborne, his son-in-law, to Albany to demand the surrender of the fort, which was refused. Afterwards letters were received from England, addressed to Nicholson, or, in his absence, to "such as, for the time being, take care for preserving the peace and administering the law" in New York. After some hesitation on the part of the messenger, occasioned by the attempts of the party at Albany to obtain possession of the despatches, they were delivered to Leisler. They contained a commission to Nicholson, "to do every thing appertaining to the office of lieutenant governor, according to the laws and customs of New York until further orders." Nicholson having left the province, Leisler consid-

\* NICHOLSON, FRANCIS. (1660-1728.) Born in England; in early manhood was a British soldier; came to America, 1684, as lieutenant in British army; appointed lieutenant, or deputy Governor of New York under Sir Edmund Andros, 1688; after Andros' arrest, sole head of government, 1689-1690; driven out by Jacob Leisler and his rebels; Governor of Virginia, 1691-1692; Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, 1694; Governor of Virginia again, 1699-1705; served in the army, 1705-1710; was Governor of Nova Scotia, 1712-1717; of South Carolina, 1721-1725; left America for the last time in 1725; died in London; as a colonial governor he established schools, improved condition of the clergy and urged a vigorous policy against Canada. (See Dictionary of National Biography; New International Encyclopedia.)