

THE EXECUTION.

On May 16th, 1691, Leisler, with his son-in-law, Milborne, was led to the gallows. Parting with his wife Alice, and his numerous family, he met his death with fortitude, and as became a christian. After praise to God, he expressed his sense of his dying state and submitted himself before a just God with humility and hope. He avowed that, at the request of a committee, chosen by the major part of the inhabitants of the province, he had taken upon him, "to the great grief of relations to be left behind," weighty matters of state, "requiring a more wise, cunning, and powerful pilot to govern;" an undertaking for which his motives were the protestant interest, and the establishment of the government of William and Mary. It was true, he said, that in this endeavor for the public good, several enormities had been committed against his will. He had longed to see a governor sent, to put a period to the disorders existing; some of which, on his part, were committed through ignorance, some through jealous fear, some through misinformation and misconstruction, and some through rashness or passion. For all his offenses, he asked pardon of God, and of all persons offended. His enemies he forgave, and prayed that all malice might be buried in the grave.

He enjoined upon his friends to forget any injury done to him. He prayed for the good of the province, and, as his last words, declared, that, as to the matter for which he was condemned, his purpose was for the good of his fellow creatures, according to the understanding and ability which he possessed, by preventing popery and upholding the government of William and Mary. He concluded a prayer for all in authority, by one for comfort to his own afflicted family; and he asked for them the charity of all, and their prayers for himself.

Being asked by the sheriff "if he was ready?" he said "yes," and requested that his body might be delivered to his wife; and, as his family had been educated as christians, he