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## THE PROPRIETARY TOWNS OF WEST NEW JERSEY.

READ BEFORE THE SURVEYORS' ASSOCIATION OF WEST NEW JERSEY, AUGUST 8TH, 1882.

BY JOHN CLEMENT.

It is evident, that among the first subjects which occupied the attention of the proprietors, after their arrival in West New Jersey, was the selection of proper sites for towns upon the eastern shore of Delaware river. A just and equitable system by which to divide the land among the owners and settlers was an intricate and troublesome one to solve, causing much delay and producing much dissatisfaction and difference of opinion. This question had to be settled first; for every one naturally desired to know in what manner they were to hold their landed estates in severalty, free from the intrusion of any other who might set up a claim on the same land as already located and surveyed.

The true plan was adopted; and the same, with but few modifications, that holds to the present in the taking up of unlocated lands, within the limits of the Western division. If the idea, as at first suggested, had obtained, of dividing the river front into parts between "the falls" and Cape May, by making the large streams the division boundaries, then the owners of each division would have sought some spot on the river and within its lines for a prospective city or town. This notion was, however, never carried any further than making the order to Daniel Leeds, Surveyor General, and entering it of record.

John Fenwick and his associates had already selected a spot whereon to build Salem; several miles from the river and on a tortuous and narrow water way, beyond the reach of heavy shipping and without the attractions for large mercantile trade. This oversight was taken advantage of

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by the London and Yorkshire owners, and although several larger streams than Salem creek ran into the territory, yet only the bold shores and deep waters of the river were examined and brought in question.

Much care was taken in settling this important matter and the good judgment exercised is evidenced by the places fixed upon. All this was being done while William Penn was negotiating for the territory bounding the western shore of the same beautiful river, and nothing appeared to mar the prospective advantages to be derived from the development of the infant colony. Towns and cities in the very nature of things would be built, and in anticipation thereof these very proper steps were being taken.

After much going to and fro, and multiplied deliberations, Burlington, Gloucester and Billingsport, on the river Delaware, and Egg Harbor, on the northerly side of Great Egg Harbor bay, in Atlantic county, and near where the village of Somers' Point now stands, were selected. Why the site first called New Beverly, then Bridlington and finally Burlington was first chosen, it being the least desirable of the three, for a town, can only be explained by the fact that a few people, mostly Dutch, had settled about a tavern kept by one Yagou, and who also ferried across the river such as came that way. This Dutchman, Yagou, had settled there as early as 1668 under a patent obtained from Governor Philip Carteret, with others of the same nationality, who were at the same place two years before. To avoid an anticipated difficulty, touching the claim of the Duke of York to the territory in question, the proprietors had procured a commission from Governor Andros to occupy and settle the land, and kept clear of the troubles which soon surrounded John Fenwick and carried him a prisoner to New York. That reliable historian, Samuel Smith, intimates that differences of opinion existed between the commissioners as to this locality, and it was only after much persuasion and great inducements offered that the London owners would consent to go so far up the river, they having selected Gloucester for themselves and ad-

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herents. The location of Fort Nassau, a small stockade, built by the Dutch as early as 1624, has been a mooted question among historians for the last one hundred years, some contending that it stood at Gloucester and others that it stood at the mouth of Little Timber creek, a short distance below. It is possible the English found a few habitations in the neighborhood and which strengthened the London people in their desire to settle there.

When this difficulty was overcome, the services of Richard Noble, a surveyor, at Salem, were procured to lay out a town, and as a beginning, a wide street was opened from the river into the forest, with lots on either side, the Yorkshire people taking the lots on the east side of the street and the London folk taking those on the west side. The size of the lots was governed by the shares or parts of shares of propriety held by those to whom the said lots were assigned, ten acres being accounted near the quantity of land for each whole share.

This was in early times, the county town of old Burlington, the only original county in West New Jersey as established by the Colonists that now extends from Delaware river to the Atlantic ocean. Here was the court house and several offices of record, incident to such political division. Here was also the whipping-post and pillory where criminals were punished for minor offences, and occasionally for graver crimes, fastened to the "carts tail," stripped of their clothing to the waist, and whipped in the open street, "from the court house to the landing and back." In other cases they were to sit in the pillory for several hours, and afterwards have one ear cut off, or be branded with a hot iron, thus carrying with them through life the mark of disgrace placed upon them by the laws of the land and the judgment of their peers. Gradually these punishments gave way to a better and more Christian code, and have passed into oblivion never to be restored.

About forty years after the first laying out of the town, some difficulties existed, and perhaps some disputes arose in regard to the original position and ownership of the

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several lots. The exact trouble is not apparent, but had considerable importance as is shown from the entries in Basse's book of several statements made by individuals having knowledge of the first plan. The style and phraseology are peculiar to the times, and may not convey to the inquirer a very clear explanation of the intentions of those attesting; but certain it is that a serious difference of opinion was abroad in the community, and that much pains were taken not to enlarge the controversy.

These papers are here introduced in full, and will interest those who live in that region of country, and care to know anything of the surroundings of the hardy pioneers who cleared the land and settled the territory. The generation of men who were parties to this matter have passed entirely away, and old deeds, maps and memoranda must be examined to obtain any correct notion of the facts, and in what manner this dispute was ended:

"William Matlack, of the county of Burlington, in the province of West Jersey, aged about seventy-two years, came before me, the undersigned, being His Majesty's judge of the common pleas for said county, and upon his solemn affirmation, did declare that he, the said William Matlack, about the latter end of October, in the year (1677), came to Burlington along with his master, Daniel Wills, who was one of the commissioners for laying out of the lands in the Western division of New Jersey, and several others in the first boate that came there to settle the said town of Burlington, and that as soon as he and the rest were landed, he was present and saw the lotts fairly drawn for; the nine acre lotts mentioned in the next page, and on the other side of this leaf in this book, which lotts were surveyed by Richard Noble, and that the said lotts fell to the ten persons mentioned in said page, and in the three following pages, and in the same order as they are there set down. And further this deponent says that he is well assured, and very well knows, that the said Richard Noble was appointed surveyor by the commissioners, and did soon after survey

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all the remaining part of the island on the west side of High street, and bounded by the river and creek, and when it was divided it was lotted to the said ten persons according as in the said two pages it is particularly described.

Attested before me, this tenth day of December, in the seventh year of the reign of King George, of Great Brittain, Anno Domini, 1720.

JOSHUA HUMPHRIES."

"Thomas Eves, of the county of Burlington, in the province of New Jersey, aged about sixty-eight years, came before me underwritten, being His Majesty's judge of the common pleas of said county, and upon his solemn affirmation, did declare that he, the said Thomas Eves, is well assured, and very well knows, that all the writing contained in the next page on the other side of this leaf and beginning with these words, (the first lotts that was laid out,) and the next following page ending with these words, (Thomas Olive, ninth; John Kinsey, tenth,) is really and truly the handwriting of Doctor Daniel Wills, who, he is very well assured, was one of the commissioners appointed by Edward Billings, &c., for ye ordering the laying out of lands to the proprietors in the Western division in New Jersey, and further this deponent says that he well knows that all the lands on the west side of the High street, bounded by the river and creek, was actually surveyed, he having seen many of the lines of marked trees, and was allotted to the persons mentioned in the aforesaid two pages, and that he, being a proprietor, and coming to said town to settle in the spring of ye year (1678), found the said land laid out and surveyed according as in the two pages aforesaid of this book it is described, and also had his lotts accordingly.

Attested before me, this tenth day of December, in the seventh year of the reign of George, King of Great Brittain, Anno Domini, 1720.

JOSHUA HUMPHRIES."



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"Daniel Wills, of the county of Burlington, in the province of New Jersey, came before me underwritten, being His Majesty's judge of the common pleas for the said county, and upon his solemn affirmation, did declare, as he very well knows, that all the writing contained in the next two following pages over this leaf, except the affirmation taken by John Wills, is really and truly the handwriting of his father, Daniel Wills, and that his said father was one of the commissioners appointed by Edward Billings, &c., for laying out of land in the Western division of New Jersey, and that the proprietors mentioned in the said two pages had their land in Burlington, according to the survey thereof, made by Richard Noble, and the allotment made by the commissioners, as the same is in the said two pages described.

Attested before me, this tenth day of December, in the seventh year of the reign of George, King of Great Britain, &c., Anno Domini, 1720.

JOSHUA HUMPHRIES."

"Thomas Wilkins, of the county of Burlington, in the province of New Jersey, aged about fifty-three years, came before me underwritten, being His Majesty's Judge of the common pleas, for the said county, and upon his solemn affirmation did declare that he, the said Thomas Wilkins, and one Thomas Palmer, deceased, did about the latter end of the year (1677), carry the chain after Richard Noble, for the surveying all the land in the island of Burlington, below the nine acre lotts, and also for dividing some of the nine acre lotts into smaller quantity for the settlement of several of the small proprietors.

Attested before me, this the twelfth day of December, in the seventh year of the reign of George, King of Great Britain, &c., Anno Domini, 1720."

JOSHUA HUMPHRIES."

"The first lotts that were layed out for the settlement of the people which came out of England to settle in this

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country, in the year 1677, were layed out for a town, and for them to settle upon, which were concerned in the first two ten proprietries from the falls downward, and from Sutpink creek, and was agreed that the Yorkshire people should set down on that side of the town lotts, nearest to their own land, and the south country people, who were concerned in the second ten lotts, should set down on the lower side of a street which was nearest to their lotts of land, and the street which doth divide the town between the north country, and the Yorkshire people, and the Northamptonshire, and south country people, is called the and the points of compass for that street, to divide the town, were agreed by all the commissioners to be run south and by east, and was laid out and lotted (the south country side) on the latter end of the eighth month in the aforesaid year 1677, and the lotts fell as follows :

Thomas Budd, first,	Thomas Olive, sixth,
Thomas Hooten, second,	John Kinsey, seventh,
Daniel Wills, third,	William Peachey, eighth,
John Penford, fourth,	John Smith, ninth,
Rogers, fifth,	Richard Ithell, tenth."

" Each of those lotts contained nine acres and a half ; twenty-six poles fronting the above said street.

The second lotts layed out in the island fronting the river, eight of them, and lie on the south side of the town, and fell as followeth ; beginning from the town, and so down the river for the first eight :

Rogers, first,	John Kinsey, sixth,
Daniel Wills, second,	Thomas Budd, seventh,
William Peachey, third,	John Smith, eighth,
Richard Mew, fourth,	Thomas Hooten, ninth,
Thomas Olive, fifth,	John Penford, tenth.

The third lotts layed out in the island which are called the river lots, beginning at the street, and so downward, they fell as follows :



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Thomas Olive, first,	John Smith, sixth,
William Peachy, second,	Thomas Hooten, seventh,
John Kinsey, third,	Richard Mew, eighth,
Daniel Wills, fourth.	Thomas Budd, ninth,
John Penford, fifth,	Rogers, tenth."

"A piece of land layed out for a field lying pretty near the town, and divided into ten parts, each part or lott containing sixty-four acres; in length                      poles; in breath,                      poles, fronting on the river Delaware, in lengthways running into the woods                      point, beginning at a place called the Great Marsh, and so downwards as the river goeth, and the lotts fell as followeth :

John Penford, first,	John Smith, sixth,
Rogers, second,	Thomas Hooten, seventh,
Thomas Budd, third,	Daniel Wills, eighth,
Richard Mew, fourth,	Thomas Olive, ninth.
William Peachey. fifth,	John Kinsey, tenth."

"John Wills, of the county of Burlington, in the province of New Jersey, Esq., aged about sixty years, came before us, underwritten, being two of His Majesty's justice of the peace for the said county, and upon his solemn affirmation did declare that he is well assured and fully knows that all the writing now contained above on this page, and the foregoing opposite page in this same book, beginning with these words, (the first lotts that were layed out for the settlement of the people) to the latter end of the said writing on this page ending with these words, (Thomas Olive, ninth, John Kinsey, tenth), are really and truly the handwriting of his father, Daniel Wills, deceased, which Daniel Wills was one of the commissioners appointed by Edward Billinge, and the rest of the proprietors of West Jersey in London, about the year 1676, for laying out of lands in the Western division, and that the said deponent was present, and saw the lotts drawn for, the nine acre lotts in the said writing forementioned fronting the street; for the name of

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which street there is a blank left in the said writing; but is now called High street. And is further well assured yt ye other lotts in the town of Burlington on ye west side of ye said street were soon after allotted to ye several proprietors in the said writing, named, according to ye tenor of ye said writing, and that the same were entered by his father in this book, with a design that it should remain as a perpetual remembrance of the same. And further, that ye said deponent well knoweth that ye persons mentioned in ye said writing, for whom ye lotts therein specified were drawn, have all been at Burlington, and took to them lotts, except               Rodgers, John Kinsey and Richard Mew;

Rodgers sent over Abraham Man and several servants, in the year 1677, to take too and occupy his land, which they did. John Kinsey died at Shackomaxing, and was buried at Burlington ye same year, and his son, John Kinsey, came after, and to the best of the deponent's remembrance, enjoyed his lotts. Noel Mew likewise came and demanded his father's right in Burlington, but for what reason he had it not, this deponent knows not. And further, the said deponent saith, that the eight lotts mentioned in the second place were layed out from the river to the creek, beginning adjoining to ye west end of the nine acre lotts. And further, that those ten persons named in the said writing, each of them were such as had purchased by themselves a whole propriety of Edward Billinge and trustees or jointly with others. So the lotts were drawn in their names, but indeed for the whole of them, and such other proprietors as either were joint purchasers with them or such as had purchased shares of the said proprietries of them, or any one of them. And further, ye said deponent is well assured, and very well knows that Richard Noble laid out ye said lotts by order of the commissioners, in the year 1677, for the persons named in the said writing, and this deponent knoweth not that ever the forementioned persons published in ye said lotts, did quit their rights thereunto, further than that the survey and allotment of the last

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mentioned tract of sixty-four acres to a propriety, was by them thrown up again and made void.

Attested before us, this twentieth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and twenty, in ye seventh year of the reign of George, over Great Brittain, &c., King.

JOSHUA HUMPHRIES,  
Judge of Common Pleas.

JOHN ROBERDES,  
Justice of ye Peace."

Other facts than those relating to the question at issue, may be found in these papers. William Matlack says he was in the twenty-ninth year of his age, and in the first boat that came to Burlington; and arrived there in the latter end of October, 1677. That he was a servant of Doctor Daniel Wills, and saw the lots "fairly drawn for," as surveyed by Richard Noble.

Thomas Eves says he came in the spring of 1678, then in the twenty-sixth year of his age; that he was a proprietor, and entitled to certain lots, and "had his lots accordingly," although his name does not appear in the list of owners.

Thomas Wilkins, who was at that time about ten years of age, says he and Thomas Palmer were the chain carriers for Richard Noble, and helped to lay out all the lots on the island below the nine acre lots, and also assisted to divide some of the nine acre lots among the owners, who were "small proprietors." A ten year old chain carrier is not apt to forget his work in that direction, and no more reliable witness than Thomas Wilkins appears in this controversy. Accompanied by the Indians, and surrounded by the magnificent and unlimited forest, the impressions there made could never be erased from his memory.

It is evident that an agreement was made between the Yorkshire and London proprietors, as to the distribution of lots. The street afterwards called "High" street, running from the river, was made the line of division between the "north country and Yorkshire people, and the Northamp-

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tonshire and south country people," and was so afterwards observed in making locations, and in the distribution of lots.

The "north country people" were those settled about the "falls," afterwards called Stacy's Mills, now Trenton, and the "Northamptonshire people" meant the few families about Cripp's Mount, afterwards called Bridgetown, but now Mount Holly.

The "field lying pretty near the town," and containing six hundred and forty acres, was rejected by the proprietors, and passed into other hands. If not made too wide from the river, this tract may have reached to the Rancocas creek, and included several Swedish and Dutch settlements already there.

"This towne and suburbs of Gloucester, by the joynt consent of ye proprietors, was layde forth and surveyed in the form as in the figure above in ye yeare 1689," says Thomas Sharp, in the endorsement appended to the original map of the town above named. The plan represents the streets as at right angles to the river front, but as the river makes a detour to the east near the middle of the town, the streets are not parallel to each other. The lots were assigned as in the laying out of Burlington, the owners of whole shares of propriety taking large tracts, while those holding moieties or smaller parts, having long-narrow lots; all, however, with a river front excepting those back of the market place.

The aboriginal name of Arwaumus, sometimes used instead of Gloucester, as applied to the town, attached more particularly to the territory lying between Penisaukin and Great Timber creeks. This name is occasionally used in the original locations in that section fronting on and near the river. It is undoubtedly of Indian origin, but whether it was the name of a tribe or a tract of country occupied by them, there are no means at this time of knowing. The indifference of the Colonists to perpetuate the Indian names of streams and localities must have arisen from the desire to keep their home places in remembrance,

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by substituting them for the much smoother and significant titles used by the aborigines. The loss of these names is now an almost universal regret, but nothing is left in these latter days to correct this unfortunate mistake. The plan shows a public square and market place—prospective advantages to a populous town, undoubtedly looked forward to by the projectors. A court house and jail were built; here resided the sheriff, clerk and surrogate of the county, and here were held the several courts, the sittings of which drew together many of the inhabitants of the old bailiwick. The semi-annual fairs, as at Burlington and Salem, were also held here, where merchants displayed and sold their goods, where gypsies plied their calling, and where fortune-tellers found credulous people to be relieved of their ready cash.

The site of Gloucester, some twenty miles below Burlington, for a large and prosperous city is unexceptionable. The water front is bold and deep, the shores high and of solid soil. The surface of the country gradually rises going from the river, and at Mount Ephraim, two miles back, the elevation would give sufficient drainage for all purposes. Newton creek on the north, and Little Timber creek on the south, in which the tide runs; every natural facility is found for necessary sanitary regulations. The selection of the site of Philadelphia shows the foresight and good judgment of those who made it, but that city has no advantages, save the Schuylkill river, that do not belong to Gloucester, if like its opposite neighbor, it was to-day covered with the busy haunts of men, and teeming with a like population. If the hopes and expectations of our ancestors had been realized, and the increase of Gloucester equalled that of Philadelphia, her wide streets and graded avenues would have reached well nigh to Chew's Landing, and have spread out on either side towards Haddonfield and Woodbury. It seems much to say, but needs no stretch of imagination to see this; yet such proportions have never been thought of since its laying out, and will never now be reached for reasons to be discussed later on.



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In subsequent years, much trouble was found in tracing the title to the lots as laid out by Thomas Sharp, by reason of the little value set on some, and the want of attention in preserving deeds and papers relating to others.

In fact, the original assignment of lots is in some mystery, as that part of the title may have been based on the proprieties, and not by separate deeds to the holders. The broad principle of quiet possession has, however, saved much inquiry to settle this question.

The same may be said of Billingsport, as to local advantages that have already been written of Gloucester. It is situate about ten miles lower down the river, and was so named in honor of Edward Byllynge, the first governor of the colony, as appointed by the proprietors in England. The name has been corrupted in the spelling, but the old papers relating thereto show this error.

At the mouth of Mantua creek, the Swedes had made a settlement, occupied the land, and used the river shore for landing their nets while engaged in fishing. In some instances they had acquired title to the soil through Governor Andros, but yielded to the claims of the English, and accepted locations and surveys according to the rules adopted by the proprietors. The desire to have the Dutch, Swedes and Finns remain in the colony, and help to increase the population, rendered any dispute of this character easy of adjustment.

Although no plan of the town appears to have been made, yet the land was apportioned, and the assignments made as in the others named, and mentioned as being and lying at "Byllyngeport." This site had the advantage of being much nearer the ocean than either of the others, and free from intricate and dangerous navigation.

Except the village of Paulsboro, a short distance up Mantua creek, no improvements were made at this point, and the farm land, even at this day, reaches to the water's edge. A public highway leading to the wharf on the river is the only road thereabouts, and but few of the residents in that section know they live on the site of one of the



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towns as laid out upon paper by the proprietors, nearly two hundred years ago. During the revolutionary war, and the war of 1812, it was regarded as of military advantage, and troops were constantly kept there to protect in some way, the city of Philadelphia, and the surrounding country from the incursions of the enemy.

The lines of the first laying out have been almost entirely lost sight of, and the many divisions and sub-divisions that have followed each other among owners, would challenge the perseverance and penetration of any practiced mind, to show and explain the various complications of paper title thereabouts. And should any such tracing and explanations ever become necessary, the one who undertakes the task may well be commiserated.

In the deed from Daniel Coxe, to the West New Jersey Society, made in 1691, for lands in New Jersey, mention is made of "Certain town lots at Perth Amboy, Gloucester and Egg Harbor," and two years after the legislature of the province passed a law to establish a ferry at Egg Harbor, and which, beyond question, had reference to the same place.

But for this, there is no evidence of record that the proprietors contemplated having a town there, for it was far in advance of scarce any settlements along the sea coast, and certainly anticipated very much travel in that region. An unbroken forest extended from the Delaware river to the ocean, and the intercourse between the two sections was infrequent. A few members of the society of Friends, had gone there from Long Island in pursuit of whale, and occasionally the zeal of preachers in that sect induced them to make a journey across the province, to visit that wilderness country.

The proprietors being the law makers, the council and the judges of the courts regarded every object from the same stand point, and hence the unanimity with which the advance of every material interest was concurred in. Even this out of the way place, did not escape their attention, and although it never had a road laid, nor a street opened, yet it showed their foresight and business penetration.

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It is evident that these towns were in the prospective, that the value of the land where they were laid out was in the future, and depended entirely upon the increase of population, and the spread of improvement. The projectors understood this, and had a right to believe their plan would lead to success.

Any one at all cognizant of the condition of things in Great Britain, could see that the tide of emigration was setting towards the "plantations in America," and that ere long many families, much capital and youthful energy would find a place on these shores. Events were transpiring too palpable to be disregarded, to bring about this end, and the purchasers of John Lord Berkley's undivided moiety of Nova Cæsaria might well conclude they had made no mistake in this new enterprise. But the ink was scarcely dry upon their muniments of title before trouble began to arise; and in fact, the controversy between John Fenwick and Edward Byllynge's creditors, (as previously settled by William Penn), in the eyes of designing or timid persons seemed to leave a shadow over it. Very soon political rivalry became apparent, which was felt on both sides of the ocean, and caused much delay in getting the various parts of the government in motion.

The appointment of the chief executive officer led to much controversy and bitter feeling. Edward Byllynge claimed that this prerogative had not passed with the grant of territory, like other functions of the government, but remained in the crown or himself; while the proprietors regarded the covenants in their deeds as a fraud and deception, if this right did not follow the others. This prerogative was exercised by the proprietors in England, by the appointment of Edward Byllynge, governor of the province, against the remonstrance of the people here, and contrary to the spirit, if not the letter of the concessions and agreements. Doctor Daniel Coxe, one of the largest proprietary owners, was a convert to the same doctrine, and when he conveyed his estate to the West New Jersey Society, infused the same element into that body of men,

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and who determinedly adhered to it to the last. Daniel Coxe defended this position by several documents from his own hand, which went to embarrass the other party, and endanger their success in settling the land. His efforts were for conciliation and peace, but the dispute had progressed too far for ordinary means to heal it. Every attempt in that direction seemed to embitter the feeling and enlarge the quarrel.

The sending out of Samuel Jennings as deputy governor, a man altogether acceptable to the emigrants, avoided an open rupture, and somewhat quieted the spirit of discontent, so prevalent at that time. An attendant evil was the inability of the people to enforce the laws passed by their own legislature, unsettling the rights of property, the protection of citizens and the restraint of crime. During this, the religious Keithian controversey began to assume dangerous proportions, and estranged many of those who unitedly withstood the before-named political encroachments. It found its way among the most substantial and influential citizens, who were inveigled into this doctrinal dispute, calculated to weaken their interest in matters of state, and increase the already existing difficulties.

The controversy with those in authority in the Eastern province, touching the true position of the division line, and other questions of equal importance, and which existed at the same time, was another source of trouble, and prevented persons from making their homes where these embarrassments existed. So burthensome and oppressive did these things become that the people were at last driven to the necessity of surrendering the government to Queen Anne, then on the throne of Great Britain.

To the better men of either colony, it appeared the only way out of this complication of troubles, and after much wordy and documentary warfare, was accomplished, to the relief of every one at all interested in New Jersey. Can any one therefore wonder at the little progress in the Western province of New Jersey, made in occupation and settlement for the first quarter of a century, after the adoption

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of the concessions and agreements, when they reflect upon the intestine difficulties which afflicted it? Is there any other solution in this question, and which has troubled inquirers for so many years? Were not these sufficient to distract the strongest minds and appall the stoutest hearts?

By the surrender, the two provinces were united, and the authority to appoint the governor was given to the Crown of England. In her first appointment to this office for New Jersey, the Queen was most unfortunate in promoting her cousin, "The Lord Cornbury," to such responsible position. Under the then condition of things, to reconcile the various factions, to restore confidence among the people, and assure a just administration of the laws, a cool, prudent and experienced person would have been scarcely equal to the duties, none of which elements were found in the person selected. To such of the inhabitants of the Western part as held to the doctrines of George Fox, Lord Cornbury was especially obnoxious, and he soon convinced them that the feeling of dislike was mutual. His abuse of power was notorious, especially when such abuse went to the discomfiture of "Friends" in the Colony. His administration was a disgrace, and his removal from office was a relief to the people. Being, however, an evil to be remedied, it was but a temporary hindrance to the quietude and advancement of the Colony.

There is no mistaking the effect this combination of unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances would have. While Philadelphia was making a rapid and certain growth, and, as Holme's map shows, all that part of Pennsylvania near the river was being occupied by the sturdy yeomanry of England, Scotland and Wales, who at once changed the forest lands into farms, no evidence of the building of towns at Gloucester and Byllyngeport could be seen, nor that the primitive forest on the east side of the river was giving way to the inroads of agriculture.

While the principles forming the basis of the governments of the two colonies were almost identical, and liberal

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and broad enough to meet the views of the most progressive, yet in the one the ambition of individuals was coloring them with suspicion, and destroying their vitality, but in the other a pure and conscientious purpose actuated the rulers and secured the confidence of all.

While disputes and contentions about the mere construction of sentences and paragraphs were producing their legitimate results in the one, a faithful adherence to declared purposes in the other was accomplishing all that could be desired. When those who contemplated removing to America compared the two systems, and found such slight divergence in the fundamental rights as applied to persons and property, it was difficult to give preference; but when it was seen that in the one, ill-advised proceedings and open controversy existed, and in the other, that one great mind controlled and directed every thing for good, they could not hesitate which to choose.

And it was not until these obstructions had been removed; until the government had been surrendered and the authority of the first governor under the new state of things had passed away, that West New Jersey became an equal competitor with other adjoining territories for successful advancement in population and prosperity.