

The Irish-Catholic soldier figured even earlier than 1755 in New York colonial military affairs. In 1700 Lord Bellemont, an Irishman, Governor of New York, writes of the number of Irish Catholics bearing arms in the New York forces. The services rendered, 1682-1689, to New York and Westchester by the distinguished Irish Catholic soldier and statesman, Gov. Thos. Dongan, can never be forgotten. The present State Assembly, Christian religious liberty, town charters, municipal government, and Home Rule, for the cities of Albany, New York, and the town of Westchester, originated with him. He gave to New York a town council to regulate its own town affairs, trial by jury, the right to vote, and religious toleration for all Christian beliefs. Home Rule, civil and religious liberty were the foundations upon which he built. No wonder, then, that a social fabric, religious, educational, commercial, and political institutions resting upon such a basis, are to-day second to none in this or any other land, are the pride of our country and state, are the glory and joy of every New Yorker, who can truly say of New York what St. Paul said of his native Tarsus: "I am a citizen of no mean city."

Captain Corsa's soldiers were, as far as we know, the first representatives of Catholicity in Westchester County; their successors, the Acadian exiles of 1756. The best apologies for the Acadians come from such distin-