

[Chap. I.]

The bill for this school, drafted by Mr. Philipse the speaker, and brought in by Mr. Delancey, administered to some merriment. It had this singular preamble: "Whereas the youth of this colony are found, by manifold experience, to be not inferior in their natural geniuses to the youth of any other country in the world, therefore, be it enacted," &c.

The opposition to the sugar act, which now engrossed so much the public attention, was unsuccessful. Mr. President Van Dam, the Council, and the Assembly, had all concurred in a petition against it to the King, while Mr. Cosby was in England. They represented the islands as aiming at a monopoly injurious both to the colony and the mother country: asserted that this colony took off more British wools than all the islands together, except what was imported by Jamaica for the Spaniards; that the act would reduce them to raise their own clothing; that the provisions, horses, and lumber exported from this, and the colonies of New-Jersey and Pennsylvania, brought returns from the foreign as well as British islands, in money, rum, sugar, molasses, cocoa, indigo, cotton, all which, except the rum and molasses, were either consumed here, or furnished remittances to Great Britain for her balance against us; and the specie sent from this colony alone, they conceived to be more than from all the British islands together, Jamaica only excepted: they denied that the British sugar islands could take off half the provisions raised by the three northern colonies aforementioned, or supply us with rum without lessening the exports of sugar. Nothing could be more importunate than their supplications for the King's protection against the West India project: and now the Assembly devoted one hundred and fifty pounds per annum, with fifty pounds more for disbursements, to any person whom certain merchants of London should nominate as their agent, to assist this colony in what they conceived to be threatening them with ruin; for they apprehended that all purchasers from the foreign