

As to the petitioners, I shall only say that I have no reason to doubt the purity of the motives with which they are actuated. With many of them I am too well acquainted to permit me to entertain any unfavourable impression of their conduct; but however, their opinion of their own rights or interests may have misled them in estimating the merits of the question before the committee, I trust we shall be cautious how we suffer our judgment of a national question to be biassed or misguided by the speciousness of the arguments, or appearances on which their opposition is supported.¹⁷

17. On April 11 the Assembly passed the bill recognizing the independence of Vermont. It was rejected by the Senate.

New York Assembly. Report on the Petition of Margaret Livingston

New York, March 31, 1787. On this date Hamilton, as chairman of a committee on the petition of Margaret Livingston, brought in a bill entitled "An act for dividing the township of New Stamford in Ulster county."¹

New York Assembly Journal, 1787, 129.

1. The bill introduced by H was incorporated in "AN ACT for the relief of persons who paid money into the treasury of this State . . . and for other purposes therein mentioned" (*Laws of the State of New York, II, 580-90*).

*From Daniel Coxe*¹

London, April 4, 1787. ". . . Interested as I am in a large landed Property in the State of New Yorke; under former Grants of the Crown, and which not having been confiscated, is considered to be secure to me in virtue of the Treaty, I am anxious to be informed, from a Gentleman of your high Professional merit, whether or not, and how far, the Principle of *Alienism*, is adopted seriously by your State, or Law Courts, or intended to be put in Execution on any Event occuring on the Death of any Landholder, being a *British Subject* . . ."