

that the wealthy company was usually remiss in fulfilling its promises of assistance and protection to settlers when such service was attended with outlays of money ; and he, as they, had also seen well-born, highly-educated, and patriotic men so bitterly persecuted in New Netherland that his own manhood seemed debased in witnessing the public humiliations of the fair-minded and virtuous settlers who had dared to criticise openly the sordid selfishness of the directorate of the avaricious corporation.

Confident that the director-general would deny the charge that the West-India Company was indebted to the Indians for the land conveyed to the settlers at Midwout, and would resort to subterfuges of specious reasoning in order to make it appear that the corporation was in no way responsible for the antagonistic attitude of the *Wilden*, the courageous emissary sought an immediate interview with him. Discovering that he would not concede the fact that the people at Midwout were occupying land for which the previous Indian owners had not been paid, Jan Snedeker thereupon vehemently declared that, should no immediate recognition be taken of the perilous position of the inhabitants of Midwout, upon him as the executive officer of the West-India Company would rest the guilt of recklessly placing an unprotected body of men, women, and children at the mercy of a band of exasperated and revengeful barbarians. Unwilling to be regarded as the author of hostilities that might be inaugurated by the Indians detrimental to the company's interest, the wary official promised to make good whatever money or commodities Jan Snedeker and his associates might contribute to satisfy for a time the savages demanding immediate payment for the land at Midwout.

The provoked delegate, confident that the promise would not be fulfilled should he accept it, surlily quitted the presence of the diplomatic director-general. On disclosing the result of his conference with the irascible agent of the West-India Company, the troubled colonists, compelled by the adverse circumstances attending their settlement at Midwout, determined to arrange as quickly as practicable with the Canarse chiefs the terms upon which they might be compensated for the land of the *vlacke bosch* farms.

The double-dealing servitor of the covetous corporation was not a little terror-stricken by the grave accusations which Jan Snedeker had made in charging him with breaking faith with the friendly Indians and affording them a pretext for massacring innocent and peaceable settlers and eventually involving the West-India Company in an unnecessary and expensive war. In a letter, dated at New Amsterdam, on Monday, June 17, 1652, and addressed to the members of the Council of New Netherland, Director-General Stuyvesant plausibly endeavored to exonerate himself from any culpability in the matter of seating colonists on land not owned by the West-India Company, and yet