

must defend ourselves, for if his Honor cannot deliver us from sixteen or seventeen men, what could he do against more |.

“La Montagne testifies to the correctness thus far.

The meeting resolved to assemble again in the morning of the next day, with the exception of Messrs.

La Montagne and Werckhoven, and consider what should be done.

“On the 27th of November, at nine o'clock, A. M., all the aforesaid delegates met again with the exception of Cornelis van Werckhoven and La Montagne.

“5. The English delegates unanimously asked Martin Crigier and Paulus Leendertsen [van der Grift], the delegates from the [Board of] *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city, whether they would live with them in peace like brothers and friends. They were answered, ‘yes, but no firm alliance could be made with them until the Honorable Director-General, the High Council, and all the adjacent districts and villages had been informed of it.’ The English delegates answered: Should the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* not join them, and the Honorable Director should not protect them, they would form a union with one another on Long Island. The city delegates suggested that it would be better to write about it to the Lords-Directors [of the West-India Company in Holland], and they promised that in the interval they would keep them [the colonists of Long Island] well-informed regarding and assist them against robbers and other evil-doers of that kind to the best of their ability, and live with them as friends. Regarding the letter to be written to the Lords-Directors [of the West-India Company], the city delegates however requested [that, before any further action were taken concerning it, they desired] to hear the advice of the villages of Amersfoort, Breukelen, Midwout, and [of the colonists] on Staten Island, for at this season of the year, when the ships are ready to sail [to the Netherlands], they could not wait for the advice and opinion of the people at Fort Orange, Rensselaerswyck, and the South River.

“Hereupon it was unanimously resolved to come together again from the respective places on the tenth of December next, in order to write to the Lords-Directors, and then the delegates separated.

“Done this twenty-seventh of November, 1653, at New Amsterdam, in New Netherland.”

With the marginal declarations of Cornelis van Werckhoven and Doctor Johannes La Montagne, and the names of Martin Crigier and Paulus Leendertsen van der Grift subscribed to the compiled account of the proceedings of the convention, the over-confident director-general evidently thought that he had in it an open certificate attesting his common care of the colonists and his