

general readiness to render such aid and protection as they might require of him from time to time.

In order that the convention to be held in the following month should sit under the sanction of the provincial authorities, the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of the city of New Amsterdam addressed, on November 29, a communication to them, saying: "That on the tenth of next month, delegates from all the English and Dutch towns and villages should meet to report the present state of the country here to the Noble Lords-Directors [of the West India Company] as masters and patrons of this province." With due deference and respect they further remarked: "Therefore we, the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city, make the friendly request to your Worshipful Honors to summon delegates from the respective Dutch towns and settlements to appear on the said day and make such a remonstrance to the Lords-Directors for the peace and welfare of the country as in their opinion they shall consider advisable. In expectation of your Worshipful Honors' favorable decision, *etc.*"<sup>1</sup>

Although the provincial authorities consented to the holding of the convention, they did not accede to it except on the condition that the "deputies of the High Council" should be permitted to be present at its sittings. They, however, did not refrain from declaring that they "might adduce weighty reasons \* \* \* \* why this fashion of gathering and individual remonstrations \* \* \* \* should be discountenanced." They undertook to exonerate themselves from public blame in not securing the arrest of the persons robbing the settlers on Long Island by adverting to the fact that an effort had once been made to apprehend them, saying that the "statements that Jochim Pietersen [Cuyter], Willem Hareks, and others have been robbed without anything having been done, the director-general and council declare to be false and calumnious, for, on account of these robberies of Jochim Pietersen [Cuyter] and the theft of horses, immediately after the return of the director-general from Fort Orange, three yachts, under Paulus Leendertsen [van der Grift], and a land force of about sixty men, under the command of Captain Crigier, were sent out in pursuance of the resolutions and appointments passed and made for this purpose." They also advanced the plea, under a guise of apparent truthfulness, that such robberies as had taken place would not have happened had the orders of the West-India Company and the provincial authorities been obeyed, remarking: "If they add that these persons [who had been robbed] cannot be protected, it must be considered that the said persons and many others, contrary to the general order of the company, and the warnings of the director-general and council, have settled separately far from the villages, hamlets, or neighbors."

<sup>1</sup> New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v, pp. 152, 153, 154. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 223-225, 226, 227.