

The Board of *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of the city of New Amsterdam sent as municipal delegates: Arent van Hattem, Paulus Leendertsen van der Grift, Martin Crigier, Willem Beeckman, and Pieter Wolfertsen van Couwenhoven; Gravesande, George Baxter and James Hubbard; Vlissingen (Flushing), John Hicks and Tobias Feeks; Middelburg (New Town), Robert Coe and Thomas Hazzard; Heemstede (Hempstead), William Wasborn and John Seaman; Amersfoort, Elbert Elbertsen and Thomas Spicer; and Breukelen, Frederik Lubbertsen and Paulus van der Beccq.

"The dangers to which the people were exposed," as remarked by O'Callaghan, "affected all alike; and the grievances of which they complained were no respecters of persons. The greatest harmony and concord therefore prevailed; so true is it, that the fortuitous circumstances of birth or religion weigh but little with the right-thinking and unbiased masses, except when seized on by those interested in the existence of public abuses to lead the public mind astray so as to secure the continuance of a state of things from which the latter derive either honor or profit."¹

When the delegates assembled, on Wednesday, the tenth of December, at the City-hall, in New Amsterdam, a committee, with George Baxter for its chairman, was appointed to formulate a remonstrance and petition to be sent to the Lords-Directors of the West-India Company and their High Mightinesses the Lords States-General of the United Netherland Provinces. The expressive memorial adopted by the convention on the following day, to which all the delegates subscribed their names, ably sets forth the clearly defined purpose of the intelligent and patriotic representatives of the people of the eight settlements. In dispassionate and dignified language they presented their expostulations regarding the detrimental conditions under which the inhabitants of New Netherland held tenure to the farms allotted them by the West-India Company, and the inattention of the officers of the provincial government to the rightful complaints of the distressed colonists.

"We acknowledge," they declared, "a paternal government which God and Nature have established on the earth for the maintenance and preservation of peace and the good of mankind, not only in conformity to Nature's laws but in accordance with the rules and precepts of God, to which we consider ourselves bound by His word, and therefore submit."

Conceiving their rights and privileges "to be the same" as those of the inhabitants of the Fatherland, they "being no wise a conquered and subjected people," but settled in New Netherland "on a mutual covenant and contract entered into with the Lords-Patrons," they humbly solicited that their remon-

¹ History of New Netherland. By E. B. O'Callaghan, vol. ii., p. 243.