

strance and petition might be "received and construed favorably, and be interpreted not sinisterly but advantageously."

"We shall, therefore, frankly declare, with all humility, our fear and the alarm which for some time have broken our spirits and hurt us in our labors and callings, so that we, being in a wilderness, are unable to promote the prosperity of the country with the same energy and affection as heretofore; the causes being:

"1. Our apprehension of the establishment of an arbitrary government among us. * * * *

"2. We are usually and every year expecting that the natives, by the murders they commit under a pretext that they have not yet been paid for their lands, may begin a new war against us. * * * *

"3. Officers and magistrates, although by their personal qualifications deserving such honors, are appointed to many places contrary to the laws of the Netherlands; several acting without the consent or nomination of the people, whom it most concerns.

"4. Many orders and proclamations, made in days gone by, without the approbation of the country, solely by the authority of the director and council, remain obligatory. * * * *

"5. On the promise of deeds and general patents of privileges and exemptions, various plantations have been made at great expense to the inhabitants, through building houses, constructing fences, and tilling and cultivating the soil; especially by those of Middelburg and Midwout, * * * * who took up many single farms, and solicited deeds for such lands, but were always put off and disappointed to their great loss. This creates a suspicion that innovations are in contemplation, or that other conditions will be inserted [in the deeds and letters-patent] different from the original stipulations.

"6. Large quantities of land are granted to some individuals for their private profit, on which, here and there, might have been established a village or hamlet of twenty or thirty families. This, indeed, must in the end, cause an immense loss hereafter to the patrons by way of revenue, and at present greatly impair the strength of the province, which, under such circumstances, is incapable of defence, unless villages or settlements be planted or formed."

The Remonstrance and Appeal having been written in English, a Dutch translation of the document was sent on the following day to the provincial authorities, addressed and styled: "To the Very Worshipful Honorable Gentlemen, the Director-General and Council of New Netherland, on the part of Their High Mightinesses the Lords States-General of the United Provinces, an Humble Remonstrance and Appeal of the Colonies and Villages in the