

Province of New Netherland," with a request that answers to the different points set forth in the memorial be returned to the convention.

The director-general and council, after reading the communication and accompanying paper, sent a request to "the remonstrants" that each member of the provincial council be provided with a copy of the Remonstrance and Appeal, which they criticised as being somewhat obscure in meaning and badly translated. The surly and captious request of the offended officials obtained the following response from the convention :

"The *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city, together with the respective delegates from the villages of Gravesande, Vlissingen, Middelburg, Heemstede, Breukelen, and Midwout, have seen the answer of the Honorable Director-General and Council to the Remonstrance delivered yesterday to the Honorable Director-General, asking, on account of some obscure or badly-translated passages in the Remonstrance, that a copy thereof be given to each member of the council. The said delegates reply thereto that they have submitted the original of which his Honor, the Director-General, may give copies to the council if he pleases, and they request once more to know whether the Honorable Director-General and High Council will condescend to give a definite answer upon each point or not, for the delegates are here at great expense, and wish to know how to govern themselves."<sup>1</sup>

This communication drew from the officials an arraignment of the delegates peculiarly despitiful: "The Director-General and Council are ignorant of any delegates from the respective villages, the more so as Midwout, Amersfoort, and Breukelen have no court or jurisdiction and consequently no authority to send delegates. As to the other villages, the Director-General and Council declare the present gathering illegal, for it annulled and acted contrary to the resolutions passed by the Provisional Assembly as well as the order and decision made by the Director-General and Council at the request of the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* on the third instant. The Director-General and Council find themselves therefore compelled for the protection of the rights of the Lords-Patroons and their deputies to protest against the present gathering, as they herewith do.

"As to the Remonstrance itself, the Director-General and Council do not know whether the original or a copy thereof have been submitted to them; the document shows and proves that it is a translation, and the Director-General and Council further state that they do not feel bound to give a definitive

<sup>1</sup>New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., pp. 160, 164, 165.

Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. i., pp. 550-555; vol. xiv., pp. 231, 232.

History of New Netherland. O'Callaghan, vol. ii., pp. 243-246.