

answer to a private and obscurely-styled remonstrance of a few unqualified delegates assuming the rights and privileges of the whole.

“The Director-General and Council therefore charge and order the aforesaid so-called delegates not to address either them or anybody else under such name and title; but if the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city or the magistrates and delegates of the villages have to make remonstrances or requests for their respective places, then they severally shall notify thereof the Director-General and Council, who will give them answer and such satisfaction as the circumstances and the case may require.”¹

Notwithstanding the delegates were restrained by their individual fortitude and wisdom from manifesting any reprehensible disrespect toward the provincial authorities, they were more strongly stimulated to persist in impressing upon the minds of the director general and the members of his council the lofty and patriotic sentiments which moved them to write again to the disputatious officials, saying:

“On the eleventh of this month the delegates from the respective villages of Gravesande, Vlissingen, Middelburg, Heemstede, Amersfoort, Breukelen, and Midwout, and the deputies of the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city, convened at the City-hall, submitted to your Honorable Worships a Remonstrance and Appeal to which they received on the following day in answer a demand for copies [of the document] in order that a well-considered reply might be given. The said convention made on the same day an answer in writing, whereupon the Honorable Director-General and Council were pleased, instead of giving a decision upon their request, to charge the convention with illegality because of a pretended lack of jurisdiction of the villages of Midwout, Amersfoort, and Breukelen, which in consequence thereof could not send properly qualified delegates [to the convention]; and to protest against the convention. This appears strange, for the said villages were written to by the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* only with the knowledge and consent of the Honorable Director-General and Council; besides, the convention had no other aim than the service and protection of the country, the maintenance and preservation of the freedom, privileges, and property of its inhabitants, but not an unlawful usurpation of the authority of the said Honorable Director-General and Council; on the contrary, their intention was to prevent illegal proceedings, inasmuch as the laws of Nature give all men the right to unite for the welfare and protection of their liberty and property.

“The delegates, convened as above mentioned, request, with the *burgemeesters* and *schepens*, that your Honorable Worships will please, after having

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., p. 167. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., p. 232.