

declared the aforesaid convention lawful, to answer the points submitted in their remonstrance, inasmuch as they are willing, with due respect, to admit to their meetings and allow all such persons as your Honorable Worships may decide to depute to share in and advise upon all business which may arise.

“In case of refusal, which they hope will not be given, they would find themselves compelled to protest against your Honorable Worships for all the inconveniences which have befallen or may befall the country in general or particular, and they intend to apply to their High Mightinesses, the Lords States-Generals as their sovereigns, and the Privileged West-India Company as their patrons, in order to submit to them a remonstrance on such matters as they believe are required for the service and welfare of the country.” This communication, dated at New Amsterdam, on December 10, 1653, was signed by all the delegates except William Wasborn and John Seaman, from Heemstede, who, it would seem, had returned to that settlement; the letter being certified to be a true copy of the original by D. van Schelluyne, a notary-public.

Upon the reading of this unequivocal expression of the criticism and purposes of the resolute representatives of the colonists, the director-general and the subservient members of his council sent a peremptory order, on the following day, to the delegates at the City-hall commanding them “not to assemble any more in such form and manner, but to separate on sight hereof under pain of our extreme displeasure and arbitrary correction.”¹

The guileful director-general, two days later, addressed an open letter to the colonists on Long Island, with which Cornelis van Ruyven, secretary of the provincial government, was sent to Breukelen, Midwout, and Amersfoort, to read to the inhabitants, and in which he said: “We are further informed that the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city invited in our name delegates from your villages and told you that it had been done with our consent and approval. We hereby declare that it was not so, and therefore require and direct you not to allow such delegates to convene again or come here, especially during this crisis, because it can only be to your disadvantage and injury.”

As was the intention of the delegates, a copy of the Remonstrance, with explanatory papers regarding the action of the provincial convention, was sent to Holland in the hands of François Le Bleu, a counselor-at-law (*advokaat*), who was empowered to present them to the Lords-Directors of the West-India Company through the Amsterdam Chamber.

Apparently under compunctions of his guilt in disregarding the complaints

¹New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., pp. 179, 180, 181.

Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 237, 238.