

of the colonists, the double-minded director-general, in a paper, dated at New Amsterdam, April 8, 1654, setting forth the commission of Cornelis van Tienhoven and Martin Crigier as envoys to the Honorable Theophilus Eton, governor of New Haven, acknowledged it to be his duty to heed and prevent their complaints, and to exert himself to secure the settlers in the possession of their property, for he wrote: "Some rovers and pirates have appeared-- we do not know under what authority or whose commission-- who during last summer have uttered threats and committed several hostile acts, invasions, and attacks upon the good inhabitants in the country, Dutch as well as English, on land and sea, robbing and plundering Willem Harck and Joehim Pietersen Cuyter, stealthily taking away a vessel belonging to John Tobyn, stealing and leading off nine or ten horses from the village of Amersfoort on Long Island, and three or four negroes sent out to recapture and bring back some fugitive negroes. Having suffered these and other hostilities at the hands of the said robbers and pirates, not only last year but also again quite recently in the person of Willem Harck, when they added many threats of fire and massacre to be *inflicted upon other good inhabitants* of this province, *we, the Director-General and Council, believe ourselves compelled by our official position and its duties upon the repeated complaints of our good subjects to prevent them by all honest and admissible means as far as we can and to protect our good subjects against all such rovers, pirates, and thieves.*"¹

The despicable manner in which the director-general and the members of his council vented their reproaches upon the patriotic representatives of the colonists seems less reprehensible than the way taken by the officials of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West-India Company to debase them. Had the number of settlers been larger and more belligerent, probably their appeal would have been differently viewed by the avaricious corporation; or, possibly a revolution might have been inaugurated by the oppressed colonists to acquire a right of representation in the government of New Netherland.

On May 18, 1654, the directors of the Amsterdam Chamber of the West India Company wrote to the Honorable, Prudent, Pious, Dear, Faithful Director-General and Council in New Netherland, saying: "We have been amazed by the proceedings of the delegates from some colonies and villages, especially because in the whole remonstrance we cannot find anything that could have given them a reason for complaining of some wrong; but from their conclusion and accompanying protestations it may be conjectured that the whole thing consists only of forged pretexts for an imminent factious sedition. *We think that you should have proceeded rigorously against the ring-*

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., pp. 186; 242, 245. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 240, 241; 254, 255.