

leaders of this undertaking, and not to have meddled with it so far as to answer protests by counter-protests and then let it pass without further notice; for as it is highly arrogant for inhabitants to protest against their government so do the authorities prostitute their office when they protest against their subjects without punishing them according to the situation and exigencies of the code. * * * * We charge you to mete out due punishment for what has passed so that in future others may not be led the same way."

The patriotic ambassador of the delegates was also made to feel the implacable resentment of the haughty and despotic lords-directors in a manner particularly disgraceful. Of this they remarked: "The attorney, Mr. François Le Bleu, has been informed by us that he need not calculate upon sailing [to New Netherland] this season. He will be able to draw his own conclusions from that and from what has happened to him here, and report to his employers that we are not at all pleased with such commissions."

A discourteous reprimand was at the same time addressed to the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of the city of Amsterdam, who were threateningly admonished:

"We cannot let this occasion pass without informing you that it has appeared strange to us that you or some of you have allowed yourselves to be instigated by some evil-minded persons so as not only to help arrange without order a meeting, but also to present remonstrances, which, we think, were at this time very much out of place, although represented differently. We write more in detail on this subject to the director-general and council, who will communicate with you in due time; meanwhile we recommend and charge you to behave quietly and peacefully, to obey the authorities placed over you, and by no means to join with the English or other private parties in holding conventicles, either for the sake of deliberating on affairs of state; which is not your business, or, which is still worse, in order to make the changes in the province and its government. We have wished to warn you and give you advice before we make other dispositions."¹

The desire of having the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of the city of New Amsterdam as well as all the other colonists obey the company's officers and abstain from attempting to make changes in the government too strongly swayed the thoughts of the covetous men having the exclusive jurisdiction of New Netherland to allow them to think of parting with any of the privileges which they had acquired solely for the advancement and protection of their selfish and sordid interests. The self-seeking policy of these miserly capitalists

¹ New York colonial manuscripts: New Netherland Correspondence, *et cetera*. 1654-1657, vol. xii., pp. 3, 5. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 261, 262; 266.