

east shore of the North River. Passing over to the west side of the river, they burned at Hoboken and Pavonia, and also on Staten Island, many houses and barns of the settlers.

"During the three days that this storm raged," as related by O'Callaghan, "the Dutch lost one hundred people, one hundred and fifty were taken into captivity, and more than three hundred persons besides were deprived of house, home, clothes, and food. Twenty-eight bouweries and a number of plantations were burned, twelve to fifteen thousand *schepels* of grain destroyed, and from five to six hundred head of cattle killed or driven off. The damages inflicted on the colonists were estimated at two hundred thousand florins, or eighty thousand dollars.

"A visitation so dreadful, it may easily be conceived, spread the greatest consternation abroad. All the country people except those of Amersfoort, Breukelen, and Midwout, and the negro hamlets 'took wing' and fled to the Mannhattans."¹

The magistrates of Midwout, Adriaen Hegeman and Tomys Swartwout, then reduced to two by the withdrawal of Jan Snedeker, recognizing the insecurity of the place should the Indians attempt a massacre of the settlers there, began immediately to concert plans for their protection. Aware of the importance of having them reside near one another so that all their dwellings might be within the limits of a smaller area which might be fenced then with palisades with less expense and labor, the prudent *schepens* induced the householders to agree to do what seemed most imperative in view of their defenseless situation. In order to secure the sanction of the provincial authorities, they presented the following petition :

"To the Noble and Respected Lords, the Director-General and the Honorable Members of the Council of New Netherland.

Noble and Respected Lords:

"The magistrates of Midwout, authorized and representing all the inhabitants of the aforesaid village, set forth to your Honors how dangerous it is in this critical juncture if each inhabitant should continue to reside on his own farm, wherefore the supplicants, having first consulted the other inhabitants who embraced their proposal, are of the opinion that it would be desirable for the security of their persons and property to concentrate the aforesaid inhabitants on a smaller space in such a manner as might be approved by your Honors, wherefore we solicit your Honors that it may please you as soon as it is possible to have the limits of our village fixed so that each inhabitant may

¹ History of New Netherland. O'Callaghan, vol. ii., pp. 291, 292.