

On July 4, a detachment of soldiers, under the command of Captain Martin Crigier, sent on a sloop by the director-general and council of New Netherland, arrived at Wiltwijck. In the autumn of that year, the fortified villages of the Esopus Indians were assaulted and burned, and many of their warriors killed and captured, to the extreme satisfaction of the afflicted settlers.¹

In November, that year, Director-General Stuyvesant, having learned that the members of the consistory of the church at Wiltwijck and the magistrates had disagreed regarding the disposal of certain moneys derived from the settlement of the estates of deceased persons, addressed letters to the two parties then in open contention. To the members of the church consistory he wrote: "It appears strange to us that you oppose the magistrates in matters of such a nature, for upon them falls the duty properly to appoint administrators and to have the estates inventoried. The consistory has no direction in it, much less should it pronounce any interdict through the court-messenger against rendering an account to the *commissaries* or to the administrators appointed by them for the estate left behind by this or that person without heirs or testamentary disposition, for they are bound by their official duties to take care of the estates through orphan-masters or curators, that after the liabilities and assets have been adjusted, absent heirs may obtain their own. In case the overseers of the poor or the consistory should have or pretend to have some claim upon an estate for advanced money, given either for funeral expenses or on interest, or as a loan to this or that person, then they could not be their own judges, much less arrogate the estate on their own authority, but they must proceed according to law and get an order of attachment, when it is required.

"You are therefore hereby required not to make any opposition to the inventory of any intestate estate, much less to order anybody through the court-messenger, or forbid him to give a specified account or *reliquat* to the court or the guardians appointed by it, nor to forbid or prevent the payment of a debt in any other manner than by attachment and other such legal proceedings before the court. You may appeal in behalf of the deacons or the church if you find yourself wronged.

"As renewed complaints have been made in this regard by the magistrates, we trust that the error committed by you will be promptly corrected and avoided in future."

The director-general, having enclosed a copy of his letter to the consistory in a communication addressed to the magistrates of Wiltwijck, wrote as follows to them: "We have also been informed from that side, and we shall learn in due time whether it is true or not, that you have arrogated the disposal of what

¹ Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiii., pp. 259, 260.