

Reformed Church of Holland," the charges brought against him were withdrawn. The Reverend Nicolaas van Rensselaer unfortunately foisted certain misstatements of Reformed-Church doctrine in a sermon preached by him at Albany, on Sunday, August 13, 1676, which the Reverend Gideon Schaets declared were heretical, and he wrote a letter to the consistory of New York expressing his opinion respecting them. The unpopular colleague of the senior pastor was shortly afterward called before the church council at Albany, and, on examination, was found guilty of preaching heresy.

The consistory of New York, in order to compel the Reverend Nicolaas van Rensselaer to retire from the pulpit of the Reformed Church at Albany, authorized Jacob Leisler to take legal means to accomplish that purpose. Deacon Leisler, with Jacob Milborne, a reputable Englishman, engaged in business at Albany, carried the matter before the magistrates of the court of that city. A hearing was given the Reverend Nicolaas van Rensselaer, who failed to exonerate himself from the charges, and he was imprisoned. The incarcerated minister appealed to the governor and council of the province. An "extraordinary court" was held at Albany, on the twenty-eighth of September, which rendered the remarkable decision: "Resolved, unanimously, and by a plurality of votes that [the] parties [the Reverend Gideon Schaets and the Reverend Nicolaas van Rensselaer] shall both forgive and forget as becomes preachers of the Reformed religion to do; also that all previous variances, church differences, and disagreements and provocations shall be consumed in the fire of Love, a perpetual silence and forbearance being imposed on each respectively to live together as brothers for an example to the worthy congregation, for edification to the Reformed religion, and further for the removal and banishment of all scandals."

As shown by the vindictive features of their order, the governor and council of the province wilfully and falsely charged Jacob Leisler and Jacob Milborne as having originated "the first occasion of the difference," and on that ground demanded of them the payment of the expenses of the trial of the Reverend Gideon Schaets and the Reverend Nicolaas van Rensselaer.

"Whereas there was an amicable and friendly agreement made by the church officers (or *kerkenraad*) at Albany of the difference between Dominie Nicolaas van Rensselaer on the one part, and Jacob Leisler and Jacob Milborne on the other, only as to the matter of charge, the which was referred to the governor and council here.

"The same being taken into consideration, it is ordered that Jacob Leisler and Jacob Milborne do pay the whole charge, both at Albany and here, as giving the first occasion of the difference, and that Dominie Van Rensselaer