

“six hundred weight of powder and four hundred ball, namely two hundred two-pounders and two hundred four-pounders, with some match [for igniting the powder in loaded guns], and one hundred hand grenades out of their majesties' stores, and two hundred pounds [of money] out of their majesties' revenue,” which, as the convention understood, was daily collected “to employ the Maquas [Mohawk] and other Indians in their majesties' service for securing the frontier parts of that county from any incursions of the said Indians or French.” This demand for the use of munition and money belonging to their majesties, King William and Queen Mary, it should be remembered, was fully sanctioned by the municipal, military, and magisterial officials of the city and county of Albany.

The messenger, on his return to Albany, reported, on September 17, to the convention that he had delivered the letter as directed but had received no written answer except a communication addressed to Captain John Wendel and Captain Jan Janse Bleeker, and that he had heard Captain Leisler remark “that he had nothing to do with the civil power, that he was a soldier and would write to a soldier.” The letter, directed to Captains Wendel and Bleeker, signed by Captain Leisler, and read to the convention, contained the information that forty pounds of match from their majesties' stores, two hundred pounds of powder belonging to the merchants of Albany, and four small guns had been forwarded to Albany, but as regarded the transmission of money, there was none to send nor had any one the authority to order the militia of the city and county of New York to proceed to Albany.

The antagonistic attitude of the officials of the city and county of Albany toward Captain Leisler and the New York Committee of Safety was not easily disguised, for the request made by him for the selection of two delegates to represent the city and county in the assembly to be convened in the city of New York in December was detractively entered in the minutes of the convention as a “desyre” on the part of Captain Leisler “to induce *the common people* to send two men” to take part in the conference.¹ As the fears of the people of Albany of an invasion of the province by the French lessened as winter approached, they did not renew their importunities for military aid with the commandant of Fort William.

Colonel Nicholas Bayard, who had incurred the ill-will of Captain Leisler and his supporters by an injudicious attempt to destroy their popularity with “*the common people*,” as he and his Albany partisans arrogantly titled those who had not been recognized as provincial gentry by the English officials commissioned by James II., was then temporarily residing in Albany. Imagining it to be in his power to induce some of the officers and soldiers previously

¹ Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed., vol. ii., pp. 88, 89, 92, 93.