

His wish, that in the choice of delegates to the May convention in the city of New York, that "it ought to be a free election for all classes," is a declaration most noteworthy in character, especially when it is associated with the action taken by the patriotic representatives of the people of the province of New York, described by Bancroft :

"On the first of May, 1690, New York beheld the momentous example of an American 'congress.' The idea originated with the government of Massachusetts, established by the people in the period that intervened between the overthrow of Andros and the arrival of the second charter; and the place of meeting was New York, where, likewise, the government had sprung directly from the action of the people. Thus, without exciting suspicion, were the forms of independence and union prepared. * * * *

"At that congress it was resolved to attempt the conquest of Canada by marching an army, by way of Lake Champlain, against Montreal, while Massachusetts should, with a fleet, attack Quebec. Thus did Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, having, at that time, each a government constituted by itself, in the spirit of independence, not only provide for order and tranquillity at home, but, unaided by England, of themselves plan the invasion of Acadia and Canada."¹

In July, about five hundred militia and a body of Indians were concentrated at Albany for the overland expedition. Major-General Fitzjohn Winthrop was given command of this force. About the beginning of August the march toward Canada was begun. At Wood Creek, at the south end of Lake Champlain, the army for want of canoes, promised by the Indian allies, was compelled to return to Albany.

The inconsequential result of the naval expedition was no less fruitful than that of the overland in criminations and fault-finding. "Repulsed from Canada," as remarked by Bancroft, "the exhausted colonies attempted little more than the defence of their frontiers. Their borders were full of terror and sorrow, of captivity and death; but no designs of conquest were formed."

Although their majesties, King William and Queen Mary, on January 4, 1689, committed to Colonel Henry Sloughter the administration of the government of the province of New York, he delayed entering upon it until March 19, 1691. On the arrival of Major Richard Ingoldsby, in January, 1691, in the ship the Beaver, in the harbor of New York, with a body of English soldiers, "Leisler," as related by Bancroft, "offered him quarters in the city. 'Possession of his majesty's fort is what I demand,' replied Ingoldsby, and issued a proclamation requiring submission." Captain Leisler, conscientiously adhering to his

¹ History of the United States. 14th ed., vol. iii., pp. 183, 184.