

lem Harck, and others have suffered, and particularly the secret and thievish abduction of ten or twelve horses from the village of Amersfoort ; and

“ Whereas, we cannot but be incensed at this and other robberies and incursions committed by the said Thomas Baxter and his accomplices, which have been complained of by the damaged inhabitants,

“ Therefore we have resolved to send letters to and summon from each of the nearest subordinate colonies two deputies, who are to meet at the City-hall in this city, and to whom we think it advisable to join two respected members of our High Council, to wit : the Honorable Mr. Johan La Montagne and Mr. Cornelis van Werckhoven, authorized to make in our name the proposal, and further to deliberate with the other delegates for the protection and greater security of the country and its good inhabitants upon some effective remedies and means to prevent and stop these incursions, of which deliberations they will give us a report with all speed.”¹

The subtle director-general next attempted to control the proceedings of the convention by having one of his representatives preside over it and another present a resolution shielding him and his councillors from odium and reproach. In this he signally failed, for, as soon as the intention of the wilful dignitary became apparent, the English delegates objected to the recognition of the emissaries of the director-general and his council by the convention.

The evident chicanery of the strategic official is sufficiently outlined in the “ Journal of the proceedings of the convention,” to afford a clear comprehension of its character. Although the so-called “ journal ” of the convention is not the real one, but an account of the proceedings written by the delegates of the *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of the city of New Amsterdam, and partly attested by the representatives of the director-general and his council, yet the reader will be enabled to understand, after perusing the garbled compilation of the minutes of the convention, the immediate issues which led Tomys Swartwout to become a bold advocate of the rights of the oppressed colonists and historically distinguished with his associates for initially pleading at that early day for “ a decent respect ” to be paid to the will of a taxed people by those governing them. The so-called journal recites :

“ On November 26, 1653, the following named delegates from the High Council of New Netherland, Mr. J. La Montagne and Cornelis van Werckhoven, met at the City-hall with the delegates from the Board of *burgemeesters* and *schepens* of this city of New Amsterdam, Martin Crigier and Paulus Leendertsen van der Grift ; the delegates from the village of Gravesande,

¹ New York colonial manuscripts : New Netherland Council Minutes, 1652-1654, vol. v., pp. 142, 143. Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 218, 219.