

ipal authorities, justices of the peace, and the military officers of the city and county, it was "resolved that all public affairs for the preservation of their majesties' interests in the city should be managed by the mayor, aldermen, justices of the peace, the commissioned [military] officers and their assistants in the city and county, until such time as orders should come from their most sacred majesties, William and Mary, king and queen of England."<sup>1</sup>

This action of the convention at Albany caused the New York Committee of Safety, on August 16, to appoint Captain Leisler "to exercise and use the power and authority of a commander-in-chief of the said province, to administer such oaths to the people, to issue out such warrants, and order such matters as" should "be necessary and requisite to be done for the preservation and protection of the peace of the inhabitants, taking always seasonable advice from the militia and civil authority as occasion" should "require."<sup>2</sup>

In order to be advised and assisted in furthering the peace and welfare of the province, Captain Leisler, as commander-in-chief of the provincial military, shortly thereafter solicited the different counties to send delegates to an assembly of representatives of the inhabitants to be convened in the city of New York, on December 10, to express their views on such affairs of moment as might be brought before them for consideration.

Meanwhile, Louis XIV., King of France, had instructed Louis de Buade, Comte de Frontenac, an old lieutenant-general in the French army, to proceed to Canada and carry out the plans submitted by Chevalier de Callières. On the seventh of June, 1689, he was ordered by the king "to act as far as possible in such a manner" that the people of Albany might "not be advised of his march" so that he might "surprise this first post," and afterward "secure the number of vessels" required "to descend on Manathe."

The reported presence of a number of Frenchmen and Canadian Indians in the vicinity of Lake Champlain in the latter part of August greatly alarmed the citizens of Albany, and although they for some time had manifested considerable superciliousness toward Captain Leisler and the Committee of Safety of the city of New York, nevertheless the convention held at Albany, on September 4, which comprised the mayor, the recorder, the captains of the city militia, justices of the peace, and other officials, resolved, in view of the "eminent danger threatened by the French of Canada," to come there "to kill and destroy their majesties' subjects," that "immediately an express be sent down to Captain Leisler and the rest of the militia officers of the city and county of New York for [the] assistance of one hundred men or more for the securing of their majesties' fort and the outer plantations" in that county, as also for a supply of

<sup>1</sup> Documentary history of the state of New York. 8vo ed., vol. ii., pp. 80, 81.   <sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 23, 24.