

1646.

September.

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justly render them a perfidious & treacherous people, and *accordingly in their owne season they should proceede against them, & what ever the consequence proue, themselves are the authors of it.

Sept. 15th lieutenant Godfrey returned from the Manattchoes & brought 2 letters from the Dutch Governoure, the one in latine, the other in English, the latine translated hath these contents.

To the most noble & worthy Comissioners of the federated English met together at the Red Mounte, or New haven in new Netherlands, w^m Kieft Director & the Senate of new Netherland doe send many salutations.

Yours dated the 5th Septemb: old style we receaued the 21. new style by your messenger to w^h we thincke sufficient to giue this shorte answer.

That the Inhabitants of Hartford haue deceiued you with false accusations as were easy to be euenced by vs if it were now seasonable to produce our allegations w^h we can proue to be true by diuerse attestations as well of your owne Country men, as ours, together with other authenticke writinge, but that we may not seeme to be willing to evade you with vaine words, we shall at this time present you a few particulars, out of soe greate an heape, whereby, as by the claw you may iudge of the talants of the lyon, & therefore passinge by their vsurpinge of our iurisdiction, & of our proper grounde against possession solemnly taken by vs, & our ptestacōns formerly made, we doe say, that the bloude of our country men wrongfully shed by the inhabitant^l of Hartford, and the sellinge of our domesticke beast^l by them, doe sufficiently testify the equity of their proceedings & therefore your prejudgem^t

supported by this oath Cretio Cextius, as if you should say Amen, Amen, seemes wonderfull to vs, & done contrary to the modesty requisite in such an assemblie, who should allwaies keepe one eare for the other party.

•91 Soe far as concernes the Barbarian handmaide although it be apprehended by some that she is no slaue but a free woeman, because she was neither taken in war, nor bought with price, but was in former time placed with me by her parents for education, yet we will not suffer that she be wrongfully detayned, but whither he shall pay the damadge to her M^r. or she shalbe restored to him we will not suffer him that desires her for his wife to marry her, vntill she be lawfully babtised. *Concerning the breakinge in of our Agent vpon the watch at Hartford we truely conceiue that watches are appointed for the defence of townes against the violence of enemies, & not for the hinderinge of freinds returne to their owne houses, & therefore least

mischeifes happen, it were good to committ such a trust to skilfull men, & not to ignorant boyes who when they once finde themselues loaden with armes, thincke they may alsoe lawfull cry out, *etiam nos poma natamus*.

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Certainly when we heare the inhabitants of Hartford complayninge of vs, we seeme to heare Esops wolfe complayninge of the lamb, or the admonition of the younge man who cryed out to his mother chideinge wth her neighbours, oh mother revile her, least she first take vp that practise against you: But being taught by pcedent passages we receiued such an answere to our Protest from the inhabitants of New haven as we expected, the Eagle allwaies despiseth the Beetle fly, yet notwithstandinge we doe vndauntedly continue in our purpose of pursueinge our owne right by just armes and righteous meanes, & doe hope without scruple to execute the expresse comands of our superiours.

To conclude we protest against all you Comissioners mett at the Red Mounte as against breakers of the comon league, & alsoe infringers of the speciall right of the Lords, the States our superiours, in that ye haue dared without expresse & speciall Comission to hould yo^r generall meetinge within the limit of New Netherlande, these things are spoken from the duty of our place, in other respect we are yours.

WILLIAM KEIFT, by the Comaunde
of the Lord Director & Senate
CORNE: TINHAVEIUS.

Amsterdam fort in
New Netherland the
22. Sept. 1646.