

239 C
Albany y^e 15th day of Feb:
1679

Lord Genl.

To our great griefe and sorrow we
must acquaint you with our Deplorable Condition
thats having news of Like Dreadfull massacre and
murther boyn Committed in these Part. of Ameri-
ca; as hath been acted by y^e french and their
Indians at Minnehtay 20 miles from albany the
twith Saturday and Sunday last ^{at is a elskay night}. A Company
of two hundred french and Indians fell upon said vil-
lage and murdered sixty men women and Children
most Barbarously; Ruining y^e Place and Carried
27 along with them Prisoners, among which the Lieut^{ant}
of Cap^t Bull Ens Talmadge & 4 more of y^e Company
were killd, & 5 taken Prisoners y^e Rest being Inhabi-
tants. and above 25 Persones their Limbs frozen in y^e flight

The Cruelties Committed at y^e Place no Penne can
write nor Tongue Express, y^e women byg with
Childs Ripe up and y^e Children alive thrown into
y^e flames, and their heads Dash^d ^{in Pieces} ~~into~~ against the
Doors and windows

But what shall we say we must Lay our hands upon our
mouth and be silent; It is Gods will and Pleasure
and we must submit, it is but what our Sins and Tran-

Transgressions have Decried. And since Generally
 humane things are Directed by outward means, so
 we must ascribe this sad misfortune to y^e factions
 and Divisions which was amongst y^e People and
 there great Dissordiance to their officers for they
 would Obey no Commands or keep any watch so y^e y^e
 Enemies having Discovr'd their Negligence and secu-
 rity by their Praying magnard Indians (who were in
 y^e Place 2 or 3 Days before y^e attacke was made)
 Came in and broak open their Barricades before any
 shoul know of it, y^e Enemy Dividing themselves in 3
 severall Companies Came in at 3 severall Places no gates
 being shutt, and seperated themselves 6 or 7 to a house
 and in this manner began to Murther, having no
 man till they see all y^e houses upon and mastered, and
 took what Plunder they would, Loading 30 or 40
 of y^e Best horses and so went away about 11 or 12 a
 Clock at noon on Sabbath day

It was as if y^e heavens Combined for y^e Destruction
 of y^e Poor Villidge, that Saturday night a snow
 fell above knee deep and dreadfull cold, and y^e Poor
 People y^e Escaped and brought us y^e news about broak
 of day did so much Increase y^e number of y^e Enemies
 that we all concluded there was a Considerable
 Army coming to fall upon our City as was affirmed
 upon their March hither, we being told not
 only then but y^e day after that they were 1900 at
 least we sent out some few horse forthwith after
 we had Rec^d y^e news, but scarcely ^{could} get throo y^e Deep
 Snow, some whereof gott to y^e D. Blato Place, and
 then

there being some few Maguass here in Towne we got
 them to goe thither with our men in Companies
 to send messengers in all haste to y^e Maguass Castles,
 & to spye where the Enemy went, who were not stay-
 ing to goe y^e now being so Deep and afraid of
 being Discovred by these Tract; but coming to y^e vil-
 lages were in such Consternation being so many Boole
 & felle Bille and Point, that it was not Effected till
 2 days after, when we heard y^e of Maguass knew no-
 thing of it, upon which messengers were sent, and the
 Maguass of y^e first and 2^d Castle came downe in 24
 Booles, whom we sent out with some four young
 men in Pursuit of y^e Enemy; afterwards y^e Maguass
 of y^e 3^d Castle came downe who are also gone out, but
 we are afraid will not overtake them & which is worse if
 they doe finde them for will doe them no great hurt
 y^e Indians amongst them being all y^e kindred of our
 Indians; for y^e Policy of y^e French is so great that they
 desire to some of y^e Maguass which they found at
 Shinnecottady that they would not doe the Maguass harm
 Yea if they should burn and Destroye never so many houses
 at Canida and kill never so many Indes, they would
 not touch a haire of their head, for their Govern^r. had
 such an Inclination so that People he would live
 in Peace with them; Nay to gain the hearts of y^e
 Maguass whatever they desired at Shinnecottady
 was granted y^e women and Children that were left
 alive upon their Destroyed were Released and saved, y^e very
 kins who y^e Maguass lay at were saved upon their
 Request

Request, so that they leave no Stone unturned to
bring off Indians to their Devotion

The 40 Maguad that were out at Sants at y^e Lake
whom we found furnished with Powder and Lead to lay
there a Surprise, we must needs have known
nothing of y^e Enemies Coming; for they had Pos-
ted themselves at one of y^e Passages, and before
they had sent men to y^e o^r Passage, y^e Enemy
was Cut off, which we must Impute to their negli-
gence,

The P. French had Bolts of wampum along with them
which they showed to a maguad Squaw at Shinnock-
tady which they Delight to have given to our Indians
upon Proposals of Peace if they had met with any
upon y^e way, soe y^e we must Conclude they want nothing
but a Peace with our Indians to Destroy all these
Parts

Our Maguad have got one of these Indians Prisoner
whom they have Tortured and afterwards have Released
him, but Delivered him into our Custody; for we
feared he would make his Escape and Run away to y^e
Enemy, y^e P. Indian Confesses that there were 600 men
Expecting to come out upon this Place or N. England,
and one hundred men were gone out against Kachlook
Indians which was besides this 200 men, & that this
Company had been 22 days from Canada

After y^e French had done y^e mischief at Shinnock-tady
Capt. Anders a Justice of y^e lives cross of Quir was sent
for by y^e Capt. of y^e French, who had put himself
in a Posture

Posture of Defence in his fort with the men that he
 could get by him; when 13 came there and told him
 they should not fear for their orders was not to wrong
 a Chickens of his, upon which Capt. Sander ordered
 them to lay down their arms and so were let in where
 they left one man for a hostage, & Capt. Sander
 went to their Commander who told him he had Com-
 mission to come and Pay a Debt, which they owed;
 Col Dongan ^{in sv. god.} had stirred up our Indians to doe mischief
 at Canada, & they had done the same here; and Cal-
 ling his Commission out of his Bosom told he was strik-
 en charged not to doe any harm to him or his, since
 he had especially his wife had been so Charitable
 to y^e french Prisoners, so y^e Capt Sander saved sundry
 houses from being burnt and women & Children from
 being Carried away; but y^e snow was so Extraord-
 Deep y^e it was impossible for any woman to march
 a mile, so y^e they took none but men and boys that
 could march

As soon as y^e Magas of y^e first and 2. Castle came down
 and see y^e Ruins of Shenec Hadij who Verry much
 grieved The 2 Principall Cap^{ts} said to Mr. Woods
 and some of y^e gent^l y^e were sent from altany to
 Dispatch y^e Christians and Indians away in Pursuit
 of y^e french. Now you see your Blood Spilt and
 this is y^e beginning of y^e miseries if not suddenly
 prevented, Therefore write to all them that are in
 Covenant with us wth New England Virginia
 and all y^e English Plantations of america to make
 all Readiness to march Canada early in the Spring
 with

with Great Shippes Else you cannot live in Peace,
 You say y^e King is a great King, and you are very
 numerous here in this Country far above y^e French
 You are so But now is the time to show it, else
 y^e more you are y^e greater shame it is to suffer
 y^e French to be master. and then we and all the
 nations yea all y^e farr nations must acknowledge
 y^e for a great People and master of y^e French if
 you now submit, But hiterto we see y^e French
 are the Soldiers they have been at y^e northwest
 and killed y^e English there; They have killed y^e In-
 dians at y^e Sinneles Country, and now they come here
 and kill y^e Dutch meaning y^e Inhabitants of
 Shennechtadij, who were formerly of y^e Dutch na-
 tion, They are Victorious wherever they goe. Them
 of N. England have told us they would Destroy Cani-
 da, we have much depended upon their great
 Promises since we know they are Potent Enough
 to do it, & now we know there is gen war. If
 we were but assured y^e English would mind
 their Interest now and make Ready against
 y^e Spring we would keep them in alarm we must
 goe hand in hand and Destroy the French, we hope y^e
 y^e Govern^r. with mee is come which you have often
 told us off, You told us also y^e King of En-
 gland was so Potent that he had blott up the
 French Lawes, yet y^e French gov^r. is come & we hear
 nothing of ~~the~~ yours, In y^e mean time we got
 out now with Sixty Maguass of y^e fort & 2. Castle

25 River Indians Besides y^e Christians and above 100 more
of y^e 3^d Castle are coming to morrow, we will pursue
y^e Enemy and Doubt not but to overtake them too,
and Rescue y^e Prisoners

Now Gent The Indians Speak well yet we are sa-
tisfyed by all their actions that they will side with
y^e Strongest and y^e Indians y^e are among y^e french
and all of our Indians Relations, so y^t it cannot be
Imagined that they will Destroy many y^e; Therefore
if these maj^r Subjects doe not Rise like one only
man against y^e french then e^l Maj^r Interest in these
Parts will be Destroyed and they once being Rooted
out all of y^e Evils which Spring from them as the
fountain will be quashed, the Longer we stay the
worse it will be, for we must doe it at last and
then probably after we have lost many hundreds
of our People which would be fitt to help in such
an Expedition, we have felt y^e Smart of that
nation and Pray god our neighbours may not
come to y^e same Disaster, we are satisfyed they did
not Design to Destroy Shinnecuddy but all our out
Plantations but finding them so secure sett upon
them & left the of^r untouched thinking they could
never Escape their Cruelties;

Dear neighbours and friends we must acquaint y^e y^e
never Poor People in y^e world was in a worse Condi-
tion then we are in at Present, no Governour
nor Command

nor Common no money to forward any Expedition
 and Scarce men enough to maintain y^e City
 and wd must Conclude thers only aim is this Place
 which once being attained y^e 5 nations are Rent
 from y^e English Crowne & in Stead of being a Bul-
 wark to these Dominions as hitherto they have
 Proov'd will help to Ruine and Destroy the Coun-
 treij and Lay all waste; We have her Plainly
 Laid y^e Case Before y^e and doubt not but you
 will so much take it to heart and make all
 Readiness in y^e Spring to Inoad Canada by water,
 We Pray God continually for y^e arrivall of our
 Gov^r. without which we can doe but little. Having
 enough to doe to keep y^e Indians to our side with
 Great Expence, for these Distractions and Revo-
 lutions at N. Yake hath brought us into a miserable
 Condition, That without y^e assistance and the
 50 men from N. Yake we should not be able
 to keep y^e Place if any Enemy came. we begg
 an answer with al hastd y^e we may satisfy
 y^e Indians, wd writ to N. Yake and y^e Parts
 of our mean Condition wd say much to Leach King
 having sent an Indian Express y^e 15 January last with what
 papers Related to y^e Indians at y^e time, Since when our
 messengers are come from our Indage and y^e Indians al declare
 to be faithfull to this governm^t, wd have writ to Col Byn-
 chen to warn y^e upper townes to begin thier yeards Land-
 ing y^e Lord Louch & Indians might want to Destroy them
 wd had no more to add in these Troublesome times but y^e y^e is
 and
 Your most humble
 y^e Convention of albanie
 Wm. Schuyler Major
 Wm. Westcott
 Wm. Westcott
 Wm. Westcott

The Mayor &c of Albany
 has the giving up of y^e Spring
 of Indians cutting of a Town of
 English the many things
 Dec. 1689.