

The result of the first enterprise of the three was the sacking and midnight massacre of Schenectady, then a small hamlet 12 miles from Albany, in which sixty-three inhabitants were slain on the 9th. of February 1690, and a number of others were carried off to Canada.

Blows of a similar kind were struck by the other two expeditions and the whole proceeding aroused, enraged and fused in a common sentiment the British colonies, hitherto self-centred under their separate governments.

It was the blow against Albany which produced by far the most decisive consequence. That place was then, and remained long afterwards, a post of comparative importance, though the population of the town and county would now seem insignificant. Callières (1), estimated that the city in 1689 contained 150 houses and about three hundred men bearing arms. The white population of the city and county *were* estimated at 1014. (2)

A few years afterwards the city and county of Albany had come to contain nearly as many persons as and in 1756 more than the city and county of New York, so that its relative importance was considerable. Its strategic importance certainly was great. The colony of New Netherland had been founded by the Dutch nation in 1609. Its chief object at first was trade with the Indians. The Dutch claimed as included in it a large area comprising roughly

(1) Doc. Hist., N. Y., I, p. 288.

(2) Doc. p. 690 at 1014.