

bishop. Saint Bonifacius, his episcopal successor, in order to enlarge the bounds of his bishopric, sedulously applied himself to bring the Frisians under the domination of the church. The unwillingness of the people to be converted caused much bloodshed, for many were slaughtered by those attempting to make them tractable to the yoke of ecclesiastical authority. While endeavoring to advance by force of arms the propagation of his faith among them, Saint Bonifacius heroically met a martyr's death at the hands of the resolute Frisians at Dokkum, about nine English miles northeast of the site of the manor of Zwartewoude.

Under Charlemagne, 768–814, Friesland was governed by counts and dukes appointed by the illustrious German emperor. Conrad, the ambitious Bishop of Utrecht, in February, 1088, obtained ecclesiastical control, by letters patent, of the counties of Oostergoo and Westergoo. The title to this territory was abrogated by Lothaire II., who, in 1125, succeeded to the throne of Germany. Considering it to have been acquired by unlawful means, he transferred the two counties, and the section entitled the Seven Forests (which three divisions comprised the territory then known as Friesland), to his nephew, Theodore VI., the twelfth earl of Holland and Zeeland, and lord of Friesland.

The persistency of the valorous Frisians in freeing themselves from subjection to foreign rulers was signally rewarded in the year 1417, when a charter confirming their political independence was given them by Sigismund II., Emperor of Germany. Thereafter, for many years, unvexed by war, they peacefully planted and reaped, enlarged their barns and built themselves more comfortable dwellings, and wisely administered the affairs of their provincial government.

The selection of the Netherlands—originally so uninviting because of their sombre forests, impassable morasses, extensive infertility, and extremely humid climate, for permanent habitation by men who elsewhere might have had more agreeable and healthful surroundings—is strangely inexplicable. The persistency with which they and their descendants labored and contributed the means to change the cheerless aspect of the inhospitable land and render its waste places arable and salubrious, as also the manner in which they debarred the North Sea, by immense dikes and massive dams, from destructively inundating the low country, are distinctly stupendous and unparalleled. Any one considerably viewing the stirring traffic of its great cities, the countless steamships and sailing craft crowding its ports and waterways, the rare and costly art-relics of its famous museums, the many well-paved highways of the rural districts, the striking productiveness of the sedulously-cultivated farms, the multiplicity of the serviceable wind-mills, the innumerable herds of grazing kine, the frequent villages with lofty-towered churches, cannot