

The Dutch historian, Ubbo Emmius, "who had seen the original transcript, says, that in place of the eight seals, severally of Hunsingo, Fivelgo, Drenthe, Vredewold, Langewold, Hummerse, and the Eight Parishes, with which the decree should have been sealed, there were only those of Hunsingo, Fivelgo, and Drenthe affixed to it."<sup>1</sup> A comparison, however, of the impress of the third seal, as shown by the photographed copy of the original parchment, with the impression of the seal of the city of Groningen exhibited on the photographed copy of another rare parchment embellishing a further page, will afford the evidence that the seal of the city of Groningen is the third one in the order of succession that is attached to the original decree.

Although many woful calamities distressed from time to time the Frisians, yet seldom were any so afflictive as the wars which gain-seeking foreign rulers inaugurated against them. Giving officers command of armies numerically stronger than the body of inhabitants capable of bearing arms, they sent them into the plenteous region, where they left blights of death, fire, and grief long memorable to the mourning and poverty-stricken people.

The invasion of that part of Frisia in which lay the manor of Zwartwoude, in 1500, by Albert, Duke of Saxony, under the august patronage of Maximilian, Emperor of Germany, "made such pittiful spoile," as is quaintly related by an English historian, that "all, both noble and base, rich and poore, preisters, monkes, nunnes, and novices, fled out of the countrie, none remaining but the poore pesants of the Seven Forests, who would see what the end might bee of all there miseries."

To further gratify his greed of spoil, the avaricious duke proclaimed "that the pesants should returne freely, every man to his house, and that, for a certaine summe of money (which they should contribute every one according to his habilitie), he would receive them againe into favour. Whcreuppon they returned, redeeming themselves of the duke, some villages at a hundred, two hundred, three hundred, four hundred, five hundred florins, according to their wealth. Then commandement was given to bring all their armes into the cittadell of Lewarden, and above all, for a reparation, they should come bareheaded and barefooted, without girdles, to sue for pardon uppon their knees, and to promise all future obedience to him, and his heirs. This was in

*singonie, Fivelgonie, Drenthie, Groninghe, Fredewald, Langhewald, Hummerke, et de Octo Parrochiis hiis presentibus sunt appensa. Datum et pronuntiatum apud Sylwoert, anno Domini MCCC trecesimo octavo, in commemoratione beati Pauli. Quod nos ceteri compromissores seu arbitratore supradicta contenti sumus sigillis supradictis." Vide: Text and translation in the Appendix. Document No. 1.*

<sup>1</sup>"Emmius. die den oorspronngelyken brief gezien heeft, zegt, dat in plaats van agt zegels, Hunsingo, Fivelo, Drente, Groningen, Fredewold, Langewold, Hummerse, en agt Kerspelen, met welke deeze uitspraak moeste bezeegeld worden, er allen aangehegt waaren dat van Hunsingo, Fivolgo, en Drent."—Tegenwoordige staat der Vereenigde Nederlanden. Stad en Lande. Amsterdam, 1793. *Twintigste deel*, p. 93.