

regard of the countrey men and pesants. As for the nobilitie, gentrie, and churchmen, they were forced to purchase letters of grace and pardon at a deare rate."¹

The people of Groningen, aware of the jeopardy of the city by the nearness of the invaders, began to prepare for its defence, should the Saxon duke undertake to besiege it. This he lost no time in doing, but when the enemy attempted to assault the place, its defenders displayed such valor and knowledge of the art of war as surprised the German troops, who were not only repeatedly repulsed but several times driven away from the walls by the armed people of Groningen sallying unexpectedly upon them from the gateways of the city. Incidents of the siege of Groningen are also detailed by the author of the rare English history of the Netherlands :

"The duke foreseeing that if hee did not in like sort subject the towne of Groningen and the countrie thereabouts hee should never enjoy Frisland quietly. Hee went the last of July, 1500, to besiege it. Hee planted his campe at Auwert, Seewert, and on the side of the port of Bottoringhe. Hee battered it [the gate] furiously as well as the walles and ramparts with his cannon as [he did] the houses in ruine with his great morters. The inhabitants had a good garrison of souldiers who made many brave sallies upon his campe.

"One day as hee himselfe was taking a marke with a cannon, a shot of artillerie came from the towne, who, although he were not toucht with the bullet yet was hee sore wounded with the splinters of the carriage and the gabions, and was carried to his lodging. * * * *

"After that hee had besieged it six weeks, the plague also beeing very whot in his campe, and having yet prevailed little, hee made a suspension of armes, and raised his campe, and then caused himselfe to be transported to Emden, where hee died the twelfth of September."²

Whatever views may have been entertained by different Dutch historians respecting the obedience or disobedience of the people of Groningen in regard to the enjoiment of the arbitration commissioners, in their decree, in 1338, that the stone wall surrounding the city should be demolished and replaced by a wooden one, it is a fact, that, in 1469, the wall, at that time encircling the city, was strengthened by the erection of six massive towers and rendered more defensible by the excavation of a new moat along it. Other additions to the city's fortifications were made at the time of the Gilderschen war, 1514-1536, and also in the succeeding century, between the years 1608 and 1624. About

¹ A generall historie of the Netherlands. By Ed. Grimeston. London, 1608. Lib. v. p. 222.

² *Ibid.* pp. 222, 223.