

lease of two adjoining tracts of land lying near the city. He was at that time the warden (*de wachter*) of a defensive tower surmounting one of the gateways of the city—a position held only by persons highly trustworthy and of known loyalty. The Dutch text of the well-preserved instrument is legibly written on a small scroll of parchment, to which is appended a thick disk of black wax bearing an impression of the seal of the city of Groningen. It is a certificate



THE TOWER OF SAINT MARTIN'S CHURCH, GRONINGEN, 1793.
A part of the Great Market in the foreground.

of the burgomaster and council of Groningen reciting the engagement of the lessee and his heirs to pay yearly the sum of three gold overland Rhenish florins as ground-rent, and the annual city taxes, for the use of two parcels of land bordering upon the north side of the Damster Road, which extends northeastwardly from the city to Appingedam, a prosperous village distant about fifteen English miles.¹

¹ *Vide*: Text and translation of the certificate in the Appendix. Document No. 2.