

a consequence of the invasion of Frisia, in 1500, by Albert, Duke of Saxony, which, as already related, caused many of the gentry of Western Friesland, in which lay the manor of Swartewoude, to leave their despoiled seats of habitation and found homes elsewhere in that province.

At that time the different classes of manufacturers and artisans in Groningen largely contributed to further its importance as the chief centre of industrial enterprise in Eastern Friesland; the city having been admitted in the fourteenth century into the famous Hanseatic League. The special interests of the local industries were the care of the popular and powerful guilds, which, as early as the year 1436, had begun to influence the administration of the affairs of the place.

From manuscripts and other records of the sixteenth century, preserved in the Old Archive of Groningen, is derived the information that certain citizens surnamed Swartwolt were then engaged there in the highly respectable business of brewing beer, universally considered at that time a pure and wholesome beverage and generally drank at meal-time as now are tea and coffee. They all were honored members of the Brewers' Guild (*Brouwersgilde*), one of the most flourishing and wealthy of any of the other industrial societies in the city.

Arent Swartwolt was admitted a member of the guild in 1546, and elected, in 1581, a courtier (*hoveling*) to represent the interests of the corporation in the General Council of the Guilds (*Gemeene Gilden*). In 1557 Herman Swartwolt was enrolled a member of the guild; in 1587, his son Egbert; in 1594, Bastiaen Swartwolt, and, in 1599, his son Herman; in 1599, Johan Swartwolt; in 1602, Nicolaas Swartwolt; and, in 1612, Herman Swartwolt, who was elected a courtier in 1625, 1628, and 1631, and held the office of president (*oldenman*) of the association in 1632, 1634, 1638, and 1641.

The earliest information respecting the exercise of any political authority over the inhabitants of Groningen is that elicited from the fact that in the year 1013 a certain person named Werner was Count of Groningen (*graef von Groningen*). After the city was given to the church of Utrecht, in 1040, by Henry III., Emperor of Germany, there were episcopal officers having the title of prefects or burggraves, who were recognized as empowered to exercise a moderate degree of authority in the administration of the government of the city. This privilege was retained by them until the year 1143, when Herbert, Bishop of Utrecht, deprived the Lord of Groenenberg of it, and gave Groningen as a hereditary possession to his (the bishop's) brother, Leffert, and to his other brother, Ludolph, the hereditary guardianship of Coevorden and the bailiffship of Drenthe.

Groningen had as early as the year 1245 a municipal form of government,