

who, by reason of the controversie they had with the territories thereabouts, were so blinded, as Jacob Hildebrand, bourgomaster, who was chiefe commander of the king's chamber in Groningen, and the chiefe man in the city, and he, on whom they of the Reformed religion did chiefly relie, the evening before the city revolted to the [Spanish] king, supped with him [the Count of Renneberg]. The bourgomaster told him very plainly of the report that men made of him, saying, that he hoped he had no such bad intention in him. Whereupon the count wrung him by the hand, and said: 'What, my good father, whom I trust so well, have you such an opinion of me?' and with such like faire speeches smoothed the matter so well that the same evening the said bourgomaster, being in company with certain of the magistrates and those of the Reformed religion, assured them of the Count of Renneberg's good meaning and intention towards them, and yet caused them of the Reformed religion to keep good watch in their owne houses, whereby they thought to be sufficiently assured.

"But the Count of Renneberg's practices being more and more suspected, he began to feare that the Prince of Orange would enter Groningen with his guard, and therefore durst not protract his design any longer, although as then he was not sure of any reliefe. * * * *

"For which cause, upon the second of March, he assembled his household servants and divers bourghers affected to the Spaniards, and certaine soldiers that he had kept secretly, and, in the morning (when by his espials he understood that the watch held by those of the Reformed religion were asleep), at five of the clock, being armed at all points, he rode from his house, followed by his adherents (every man having a white scarf upon his left arm), into the market-place, and having his sword drawne in his hand, he said: 'Stand aside, stand aside, good bourgers, this day am I right governour of this city. Let us now accomplish and affect that which is requisite for the king's service and our owne defence;' and thereupon caused divers trumpets and drums to be sounded, and a great noise to be made.

"The aforesaid bourgomaster Hildebrand, putting himselfe presently into armes with some of the Reformed religion, marched thither, and said unto him: 'How now, sire, is this done as a good governour ought to do unto the people?' But then one of Count Renneberg's boyes shot at him and slew him presently. Whereupon the rest [of the bourgomaster's party] began to flie, whereof some were taken prisoners, and some fled into their houses; but there were no more killed but only a bourger's sonne of Breame.

"After that they ran through the streets shooting at all who looked out at the windows. That done, they went and made search throughout all the city, and tooke all those prisoners who were not well thought of by the Spanish-