

An inviting target as he was for the bullets of the enemy's muskets, he escaped without being hit by them, and was safely drawn to the top of the town-wall. His delighted comrades greeted his return with lusty cheers, and his proud captain honored him with a reward of no mean value.¹

The Count of Renneberg, disheartened by the adversities he had encountered while beleaguering Steenwijk, abruptly marched his forces, on February 23, 1581, to Ommen, a small town in the province of Overijssel. Having in the early part of the summer of that year been defeated at Gripskerk by Sir John Norris, he was forced to retire to Groningen with the remnant of his army. In consequence of the hardships he was forced to endure while besieging Steenwijk, and the disappointment of his hopes of aggrandizement by the Spanish Government, he suddenly sickened, and died on July 23, 1581. During his sickness, it is said, "he did often grieve and lament that he had quit the States-General's party, whereby he had drawne himself into such a labyrinth, crying out often: 'O Groningen, Groningen, whereunto hast thou brought me!' cursing the day he had ever seene it." As stadtholder of Groningen he was succeeded by Francis Verdugo, a Spaniard, whose lieutenant, Captain Lankama, was forced by Prince Maurice to surrender the city, on July 22, 1594. "The first care of the prince on entering Groningen was to clear the churches of images, and to cause the Reformed service to be celebrated in them."²

During the continuation of hostilities ending with the surrender of the city to the States-General, several members of the Swartwout family, residing there, were elected Sworn Commoners, and as such took part in electing the chief officers of the city. As disclosed by the municipal records "Herman Swartwolt" was a member of the *Gezworene Mcente* in 1582, and again in 1583, and "Johan Swartwolt" in 1587, 1589, and 1592. In the following century, the name of "Herman Swartwolt" is found enrolled among the members of that body, in the years 1631, 1632, and 1634.

¹ A generall historie of the Netherlands. By Ed. Grimeston, p. 754.

² Ibid., pp. 776, 1087-1094. History of Holland. By C. M. Davies, pp. 272, 273.