

fulfil their part of the agreement, remarked: "That after several meetings, they could find no other way than to impose upon each lot and parcel of land, of which there are about forty in Midwout, a tax of ten florins yearly in proportion. This tax of ten florins yearly for every lot proportionally would make up the sum of four hundred florins, which we of the Court of Midwout have promised in the presence of the Honorable Director-General to contribute to the yearly pay of the said Dominie Polhemius. But as each one of the inhabitants and neighbors has not the same amount of property, one having less, the other more, we must and cannot tax all alike, but each in proportion to his property and real estate."¹

The church, which the people of Midwout began to erect in September, 1658, on the plot of ground where now stands the third edifice, built in 1796, was a plain wooden structure, which, as reported on September 30, 1660, had cost four thousand and fifty-seven florins and nine stivers, or, in present money, one thousand six hundred and twenty-three dollars and twelve cents. By order of the provincial authorities, the Building Committee was discharged on January 4, 1663.²

The burgomasters and magistrates of the city of New Amsterdam, having, on January 22, 1657, petitioned the Honorable Director-General and Council of New Netherland to grant them the privilege of conferring upon such of the inhabitants of the place as might desire to enjoy the rights and immunities derived from burghership (*burgher-recht*), they, on January 30, 1657, were empowered to invest any reputable citizen with either the great or small burgher-right whom they might adjudge worthy of possessing the one or the other. A citizen, therefore, who, by subscription or oath, had acknowledged himself a subject of the government of the West-India Company, and had covenanted to bear his share of the burdens, expenses, expenditures, and watches that were incumbent upon the burghers, and had paid fifty guilders for a great burgher-right, was thereafter "qualified to fill all the municipal offices and dignities within the city and consequently to be nominated thereto; secondly, be exempt for one year and six weeks from watches and expeditions; and thirdly, be free in his person from arrest by any subaltern court or judicial benches of the province;" and one, having paid twenty guilders for a small burgher-right, although not eligible to civil office and not permitted to enjoy the same exemptions as those granted to a citizen holding a great burgher-right, was allowed "to exercise within the city any public-store, business, or handicraft trade."³

¹ Documents relating to the colonial history of the state of New York, vol. xiv., pp. 379, 380.

² *Ibid.* pp. 383, 448, 483, 520.

³ Records of New Amsterdam. Edited by Berthold Fernow. 1897, vol. ii., pp. 286, 287.