## JAMES AND PHILIP VAN ARTEVELDE

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James and Philip Van Artevelde by W. J. Ashley

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## W. J. ASHLEY

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BEING THE LOTHIAN PRIZE ESSAY FOR 1882

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### PREFACE.

An attempt has been made in this essay to consider the history of the Arteveldes in its relation to the general development of the Flemish towns, lays but little claim to originality: Lettenhove (Histoire de Flandre, 1847-50, Jacques d'Artevelde, 1863) has been relied upon for most of the "facts;" most of the ideas have been suggested by Vanderkindere (Le Siècle des Artevelde, 1879). But the narrative of Lettenhove has been constructed from sources of most widely differing degrees of value; it has therefore been necessary to have frequent recourse to the original authorities, and to select from among his statements those which seem to be based on the best evidence. It is to Vanderkindere that the thanks of all students of the subject are chiefly due. He is perhaps the first Belgian writer who has risen above the rank of a provincial chronicler, and who has approached the Artevelde episode with a knowledge of what has been done elsewhere in the examination of town history. Aided by Maurer and the documents in Warnkoenig (Histoire de Flandre, trans. Gheldorf), it has seemed possible to trace the earlier history of the towns, especially of Ghent, so as to bring out more clearly the state of affairs in the early part of the fourteenth century. But much has yet to be done before we can quite understand the growth of municipal life, and it must be confessed that the explanations given in this essay of the origin of the magistracy and of the craft-guilds are somewhat too neat and simple to be satisfactory.

The earlier Belgian writers on the Arteveldes have now little more than a bibliographical value. Besides the books above mentioned the following have been most helpful:—

CONTRRIPORARY.—Froissart, ed. Lettenhove, 1870; ed. Luce for Soc. Hist. France. Annales fratris minoris Gandavensis, Chronicom Comitum Flandrensium, and Chron. Ægidii li Muisis, in the Corpus Chronicorum Flandriae (or Recutil des Chroniques de Flandre), ed. Smet, 1837. Jehan le Bel, ed. Polain, 1863.

MODERN.—Lenz's articles in the Nouvelles Archives Historiques, 1837.
Moke, in Revue Nationale IV. Gilliodts' notes in Archives de Bruges, especially vol. iv. 1878. Pauw, Conspiration d'Audenarde. Vanderkindere, Notice sur l'Origine des Magistrats Communaux, 1874.

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I.

### PREVIOUS HISTORY OF FLANDERS.

While some have thought it the golden age of chivalry, and some a time of resultless carnage, it has appeared to others the central epoch of modern history, the close of the feudal ages and the commencement of the industrial period. Any attempt to characterise the century may be deferred till after the examination of that part of it which now more immediately concerns us. But it is clear that the history of Flanders offers exceptional means of arriving at a due estimate. Before the rise of scientific conceptions of the past, when all the centuries between the fall of the Roman

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The Fourteenth Century. marked by I. the 'Anglo-French War;

II. the growth of royal power;

III. the rise of the System of Estates;

IV. the victory of the Trade Guilds.

Empire and the invention of printing were indiscriminately included under the term "the dark ages," men were wont to regard the great war between England and France as the especial feature of that time. With the more recent growth of critical inquiry, attention has been directed to the incorporation of the great fiefs in the royal demesne, and the formation of centralised monarchies. great wave of constitutionalism which has passed over Europe has led to a consideration of the part played by the Third Estate. And, lastly, an increased sense of the dangers attending the modern industrial system, contemporaneous as the growth of that feeling has been with a deeper research into the development of institutions, has begun to turn men's minds to the social arrangements of the medizval world, and to that banding together of men for mutual help which is known as "the guild system." In all these aspects the fourteenth century may with advantage be studied in Flanders. Bound to France by feudal ties, to England by economic necessities, it was inevitably involved in the war between these two powers. Far the larger part of it was a county of France, and it