

only one of the provinces of the Netherlands, only one of the Low Countries, although probably the most important of them. It adjoins the German Ocean, whereas the Province that we have to visit, that of the North Brabant, is bounded on the east by Westphalia, and is traversed by the river Meuse, which takes its rise in the Ardennes, flows through Belgium and the Netherlands, passes Rotterdam and reaches the sea at the Hook of Holland. It was by the Hook of Holland route from Harwich that I landed in Rotterdam, on the morning of a foggy Saturday in December, 1892. My business in the Netherlands was to study beer, moss and peat and my first glimpse of the latter article was at the Weimar Hotel where it seemed to be the only fuel in use. After using my letters of introduction diligently, I found that the chief producers of peat and moss litter were the brothers Van Griendt, the elder of whom invited me in the most friendly way to accompany him to his works and extensive moors in the province of North Brabant.

Faithful to my appointment with Mr. Van Griendt, I met him at the railway station in the morning, and was introduced to Mr. C. W. Lancaster, accountant, of Birmingham, England, who visited the moors at the same time. Our route lay across the Meuse and past Dordrecht, Breda, Tilburg and Boxtel to Helmond, where we arrived about 11 o'clock. From here a carriage conveyed us along the Willems Faart, one of the numerous canals of the country, to Asten at the edge of Asten Moor. Strange to say, the Willems Faart Canal lies in lower ground than the Asten moor, but the canals which traverse the latter are connected with it and the general canal system of the country. In order that sloops, or scows may pass from the latter into the canals of the Asten Moor they have to be locked up several feet, which, proves that the Asten Moor is at present a high moor, and must have been higher previous to its having been unwatered and consolidated.

Here it may be profitable to point out the distinction which the Germans have made betwixt two great classes of moor lands, a distinction which might easily I think be carried out in English also. There are first what they call low lying, meadow or greenland moors, to which possibly our word "marsh" would apply. They are always to be found near creeks and rivers, follow the course of these and give rise to the formation of wet and sour meadowlands. The peat or turf which is formed in these is of a black color, and when