

ence, in behalf of liberty of thought; consenting that others should be followers of Genevan ideas and Gomarus, if they pleased, but claiming toleration for themselves. But the Gomarian party as yet controlled the Government, and those who could not see with them with reference to some unimportant ideas were imprisoned, banished, and in some instances beheaded. Grotius wrote a powerful remonstrance, but all to no effect. The Synod of Dort was held in the interest of intolerance. What pages have been written on its deliberations, and what lessons are suggested by its results! The Synod of Dort was a central assembly of Gomarian and Genevan doctors and political commissioners, called by the Dutch Congress, November, 1618. The best men were put in prison lest they might weaken its power. This synod did no more fairly represent the opinions of the people, than a convention of Romish priests and politicians called by the Congress of the United States to regulate the religious ideas of this Republic, would represent America.

This intolerant Synod convened in an old armoury building, a fitting place for such a convention, held one hundred and eighty sessions, and cost the Government half a million of dollars. They found on organization that they had fourteen Grotian members in favour of toleration, *and they expelled them*. Those who denied the right of the Dutch Congress to punish for opinion, and who could not subscribe to all the stern, strong things of the French Reformer—the Washingtons, Colignys, Bickersteths, Paysons, and Heddings of those times—were treated as rebels! This intolerance made the accomplished and godly Episcopius exclaim, "God will require of you an account of your conduct at the great day of Judgment. There you and the whole synod will appear. May you never meet with a judge such as the Synod has been to us."

How sweet to some men's natures is intolerance! Pleasant as the stimulating drink to the morbidly thirsty; this explains the exclamation of an English prelate who was present at the synod and witnessed its perfect harmony in the cause of sin. "Oh, if there were ever a heaven on earth, it was at the Synod of Dort!"

The erring synod closed its tyrannical sessions April 29, 1619, and on the thirteenth of May, the most venerable citizen of the