

“This small territory, invaded from the beginning by different tribes of the Germanic races, subjugated by the Romans and the Franks, devastated by the Normans and by the Danes, desolated by centuries of civil war with all its horrors, this small nation of fishermen and traders, saves its civil liberty and its freedom of conscience by a war of eighty years against the formidable monarchy of Philip II., and founds a republic which becomes the ark of salvation to the liberties of all the world, the adopted country of science, the Exchange of Europe, the station for the commerce



DUTCH PEASANT.—By *Henner*.

of the world; a republic which vanquishes England on the sea, which resists the united arms of Charles II. and Louis XVI., and which treats on equal terms with the greatest nations, and is, for a time, one of the three Powers that decide the fate of Europe.”

Her prominence and power, as a nation, are apparently on the decline; certainly they are less than of yore. But her citizens are, for the most part, frugal, contented and well-furnished in this