

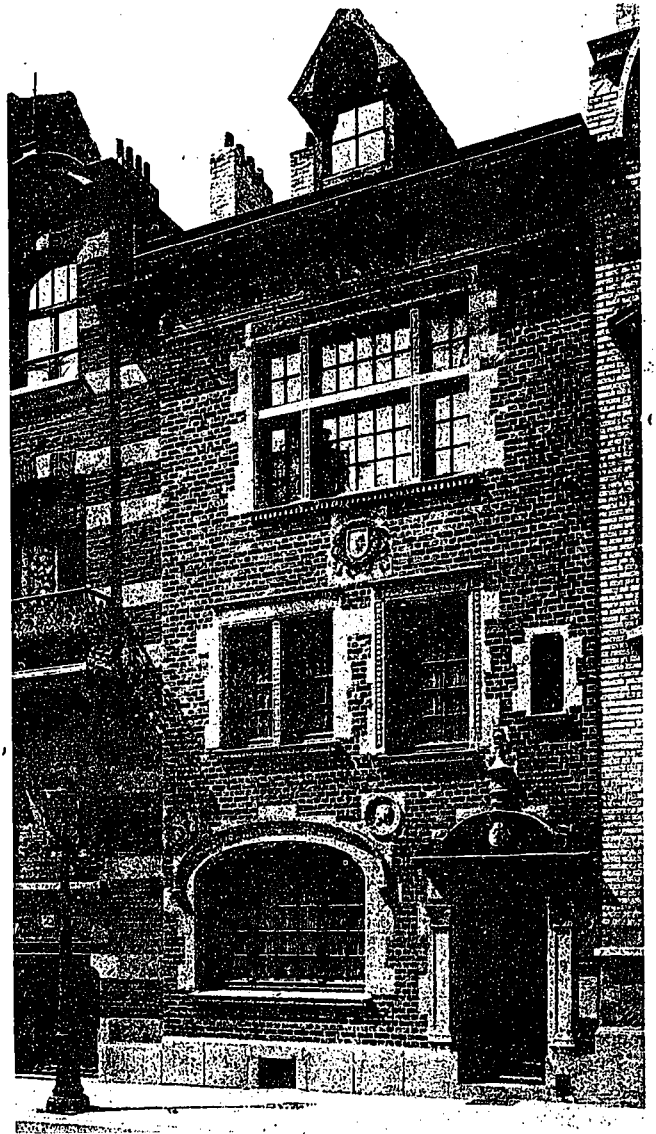
It is a picture such as old Prout would have loved to paint.

No description of Dinant, the illustration of which on our editorial page shows the disastrous effects of the recent bombardment, could be better stated than the following account from one who made a recent tour along the Meuse river:

The approach to Dinant by the river is uncommonly pretty, especially if you drift in by the evening boat on a fine day. Then the irregular but rather commonplace buildings that line the banks on either side show more picturesquely; the fine old church looks solemnly down, while the angular masses of the fortress on the edge of the precipitous cliff immediately behind it catch the last glow of the sunset that dyes the smooth water from a flash of reflected rose from the upper sky. The little town is built chiefly on the right bank, and runs a straggling line of houses for a mile or two up the river on the narrow space which the jutting limestone rocks leave free. A stone bridge crosses from the left bank, on which the railway lies, to the little Place, where the market is held as usual by the side of the church. The old church itself is undergoing a great process of repair. The rich Gothic mouldings of the south and west doors are in a mutilated condition. On the north side the remains of a corresponding transept door have been revealed by recent removals, but the reliefs and decorative detail are ground down to a mere vestige. The chapel on the south side of the choir, used as a baptistery, has a round arch, with the rude Romanesque sculpture and capitals of the shafts that belong to the earlier period of the church's history, but the interior generally shows considerable marks of having been pulled about at various periods. In spite, however, of discrepancies and restorations, the interior of this old church of Notre Dame de Dinant is very striking. The great height, the happy proportions, wide transepts, and beautiful open apsidal choir of five bays, the vault of which is supported on six slender columns, the continuous and handsome triforium, and the warm grey color of the stone, unspoilt by painting, make up an uncommon and noble interior. Of the old wooden houses for which Dinant was once famous, but few are left. We found a couple, used as a tannery in a back street, still covered with pretty geometric patterns in panels, but both in a shabby condition.

In Louvain, so ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans, the people still speak Flemish, and books are published in this language. Here are found many examples of old Flemish church art, such as the "Last Supper" by Bouts; flamboyant gothic rood-loft, 1490; and others none the less valuable. The town hall excels in its beauty of proportions and wealth of ornament-

ation, reaching the highest point of ornate civic Gothic. Built by Matthew of Loyens between 1450 and 1465, it contains one more story than usual, has a loftier flight of steps, and possesses six gossamer-like spires. The arrangement of the statues is interesting, the Dukes of Burgundy and the Counts of Flanders being in the upper row, while the warriors and statesmen of the country are next and the townsmen beneath. Elaborate sculpture work is found in the corbels which support the various statues. In



HOUSE AT SCHAERBEEK, NEAR BRUSSELS.

addition to the university, other buildings of an interesting character could have been enjoyed before the war. Other special features worthy of mention are the carved oak wooden stalls, fifteenth century, in St. Gertrude's Church, among the finest in Belgium.

Brussels, originally Brocksele, is mentioned as early as the eighth century and grew to such importance that Wenceslas in 1357 ordered the new wall built about the city, which was intact until the Belgian revolution in 1830, and in 1383