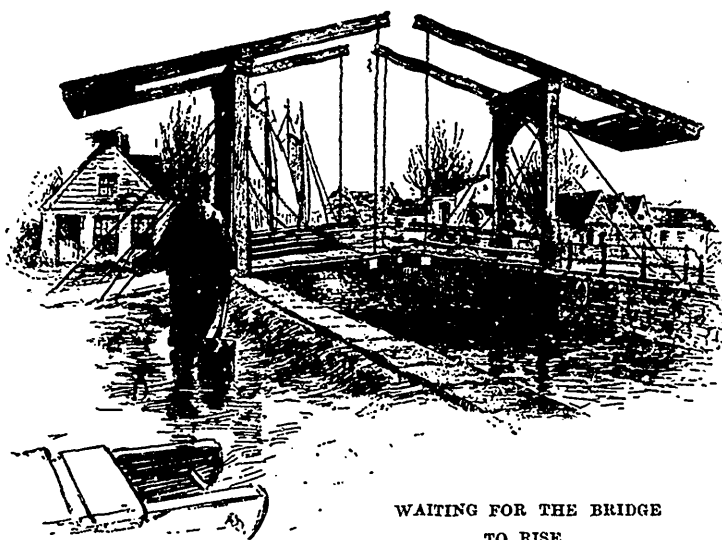


in the street seem built on the same principle as the Dutch boats in the canals—very broad and staunch-looking craft. I saw, at last, where Rubens found the models for his very solid saints and angels, and for his exceedingly ample, not to say exuberant, allegorical figures. There happened to be in progress, when I was in Rotterdam, a "Kermis"—literally a "Church Mass," but practically a peasants' fair or Dutch carnival, when the whole city, thronged with the neigh-

goods; and more than all, and everywhere, luncheon booths and drink counters.

Greater Babel I never heard. The chapmen and vendors were crying their wares, bands were discoursing brazen music in half a dozen places at once; not to mention the drums, trumpets, and vociferations of itinerant showmen inviting the gaping crowd to enter the enchanted palace or fairy bower whose beauties were portrayed on glaring canvas; and the proprietors of the learned pig,



WAITING FOR THE BRIDGE
TO RISE.

bouring peasantry, was given up to holiday making. A balloon was sailing overhead, and till it passed from view everybody was craning his neck to catch a glimpse of it. Posts were planted across certain streets to prevent the intrusion of carriages on the region reserved for the fair. This region was crowded with booths, tents, merry-go-rounds; stages for harlequins, mountebanks, quack-salvers, and cheap theatricals; shooting-galleries, peep-shows, and stalls for selling all manner of toys, trinkets, pictures, fancy

the tame snakes, the happy family of monkeys and parrots, or of the dwarf or giantess, setting forth the attractions of their respective shows. It was the most vivid realization of Bunyan's Vanity Fair I ever expect to see.

The throngs of people consisted largely of peasants in their gala dress—the men in stiff high-collared coats with big horn buttons, and high-crowned hats; the women in stuff gowns with a white neckerchief, a lace cap and a broad gold band across the forehead with spiral horns projecting