

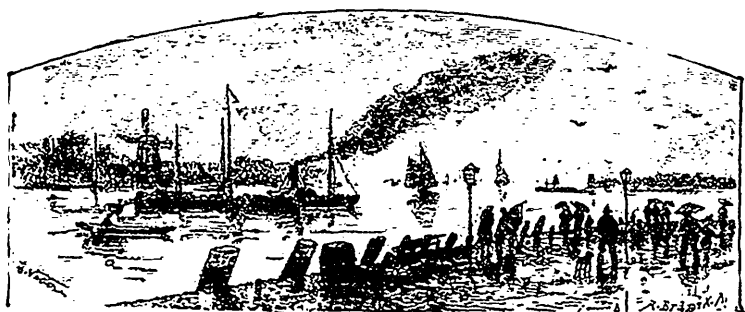
# THE Methodist Magazine.

MAY, 1889.

HOLLAND AND ITS PEOPLE.

BY THE REV. S. P. ROSE.

I.



VIEW ON THE LOWER RHINE.

PERHAPS no nation has ever made a braver fight for existence, physical or political, than Holland. A study of the physical conditions under which its national life has been preserved, excites surprise that there is any Holland to write about or visit. An Italian traveller, Edmondo de Amicis, thus describes the natural features of Holland when first occupied by the Germans:

“It was almost uninhabitable. There were vast tempestuous lakes, like seas, touching one another; morass beside morass; one tract covered with brushwood after another; immense forests of pines, oaks, and alders, traversed by herds of wild horses; and so thick were these forests, that tradition says, one could travel for leagues, passing from tree to tree, without ever putting foot to the ground. The deep bays and gulfs carried into the heart of the country the fury of the northern tempests. Some provinces disappeared once every year under the waters of the sea. The large rivers, without any inclination to descend to the sea, wandered here and there