



DORDRECHT, HOLLAND.

The painter delights to place on canvas the Dutch woman in, what we are thus led to think is her characteristic costume, a short woollen skirt, wooden shoes and white lace cap with its great hairpin, or other ornaments, handed down, in some cases, from previous generations. But dresses seen on the streets of the Hague, Rotterdam, Scheveningen and Amsterdam differ little from those on Regent or Oxford street in London. It was at Dort that we first met with Dutch women in the painter's favorite garb, and where, away from the bustle of great cities, and amid winding streets, quaint architecture and frequent glimpses of the river, we could see, in part, what attracts the English and American painters to Holland. The Dutch painters themselves are famous for their portraits, but perhaps even more they love to portray scenes in their own home life, and the Mauritshuis at The Hague and the great Rijk's Museum at Amsterdam are rich with illustrations of these from the brushes of Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Frans Hals and others.

And what of the cities? Our rooms at the hotel overlooked the Maas and one of the numerous Havens or widened canals which gave Rotterdam the appearance of another, but a very busy, Venice. There was life everywhere. The German trade with Britain and with America flows in part through the commercial artery which terminates here. Great 25,000-ton steamships can load and discharge at the piers of Rotterdam. At The Hague we were, however, in a new sphere. It was the centre of official life and, being the residence of the Sovereign, society centred there, whilst within an easy walk was Scheveningen, the Dutch "Atlantic City," where there was a glorious beach, miles in length, and health-giving breezes which tempted us to throw ourselves down on the sands and enjoy them for hours. Amsterdam, on the other hand, is the centre of finance and of the home trade, whilst also having its share of the foreign business. It is a rich city and holds large interests in the United States and Canadian railways, as well