

centre of gravity of sea-borne commerce again and again. During hundreds of years on a group of sand-banks in the Adriatic grew up the greatest commercial emporium of mediæval times. The merchants of Venice were famous throughout all lands, and "held the gorgeous East in fee." The discovery of America and a new route to the East around the Cape of Good Hope changed all that. The centre of gravity shifted to the western coast of Europe. Cadiz, Lisbon, Bristol, London, and the cities of the Zuyder Zee became new emporia of commerce. But from some of these, too,

land, it had its gardens and palaces, where princes and ambassadors gathered from all parts of Europe to make treaties of commerce or alliances with Romans, Danes, Germans, and Franks. The fame of its wealth spread throughout the world.

Hoorn, on the west coast, had as early as 1400 a cattle fair which soon assumed the proportions of an international gathering. Strange dispensation of fate, Hoorn by the dry-making will become an inland town, many miles from any other water than that of a canal—Hoorn which once sent her merchantmen



ON THE WAY TO CHURCH.

the tide of commerce ebbed away, while to the ports of London, Liverpool, and Glasgow it brought incomparably greater gains. The dead cities of the Zuyder Zee are conspicuous examples of this drying up of the empire.

Around the edge of that great lake, says Walter Wellman, in an interesting article in McClure's Magazine, to which we are indebted for the accompanying maps, now sleep some of the most ancient towns in Europe. It is difficult for the present generation to realize the part which these decaying cities once played in the history of the world. Stavoren, on the east coast, dates back to 300 B.C., and was a great commercial centre long before the ocean swept in and made it a seaport. As the capital of Fries-

to all parts of the known world and whose sailors were famous everywhere; Hoorn whence sailed Tasman, who discovered New Zealand and Tasmania; Schouten, who was the first to round Cape Horn (and named it after his native town),