

time that the movement of its wooden fingers, as if really executing the music, completed the illusion.

This strange musical feat drew crowds around the house of Alix, and created the greatest astonishment; but alas! for the ill-fated artist, this sentiment was soon changed in the minds of the ignorant multitude into the most superstitious dread. A rumor arose that Alix was a sorcerer, and in league with the devil. He was arrested by order of the parliament of Provence, and sent before their criminal court *La Chambre de la Tournelle*, to be tried on the capital charge of magic or witchcraft.

In vain the ingenious but unfortunate artist sought to convince his judges, that the only means used to give apparent vitality to the fingers of the skeleton were wheels, springs, pulleys, and other equally unmagical contrivances, and that the marvellous result produced was nothing more criminal than the solution of a problem in mathematics. His explanations and demonstrations were either not understood, or failed of convincing his stupid and bigoted judges, and he was condemned as a sorcerer and magician.

This iniquitous judgment was confirmed by the parliament of Provence, which sentenced him to be burned alive in the principal square of the city, together with the equally innocent automaton figure, the supposed accomplice in his magical practices. This infamous sentence was carried into execution in the year 1664, to the great satisfaction and edification of all the faithful and devout inhabitants of Aix.

Honourous, Emperor of the West, cherished a profound tenderness for a hen which he called Rome—an attachment which we must fear was not repaid in kind. He was at Ravenna, having taken the precaution to place between himself and the Goths the lagoons of the Adriatic. when, after the taking of the city of Rome Alaric in 410, the slave who had charge of the

imperial hen-house came to announce to him that the capital of Italy and of the West was lost. "How!" cried the emperor in dismay—"Rome lost! Why she was eating out of my hand only a moment ago!" It was towards his favorite hen, which had the same name as the imperial city, that all the thoughts and anxieties of the monarch tended; hence great was his relief when he learned that it was not his fowl but the capital of his kingdom to which his slave had alluded. "Oh," said he, drawing a deep breath, "I thought it had been my hen!"

Among the number of learned men whom Holland has produced, one of the most eminent was Hugh Grotius, who flourished in the early part of the seventeenth century, and obtained a wide reputation for his deep and extensive scholarship as well as for his sufferings in the cause of religious and civil liberty.

Grotius was a native of the town of Delft, where he was born in the year 1583. While yet a child, he acquired fame for his extraordinary attainments. At eight years of age, he composed Latin elegiac verses, at fourteen, he maintained public thesis or dissertations in mathematics, law and philosophy. In 1598, he accompanied Barneveldt, the ambassador, from the Dutch States, to Paris, where he gained the approbation of the reigning French monarch, the celebrated Henri Quatre, or Henry IV., by his genius and demeanor, and was everywhere admired as a prodigy. After his return to Holland, he adopted the profession of a lawyer, and while no more than seventeen years of age, pleaded his first cause at the bar in a manner that gave him prodigious reputation. Some time afterwards he was appointed advocate-general. In the year 1608, Grotius married Mary Reigersberg, whose father had been burgomaster of Veer. The wife was worthy of the husband, and her value was duly appreciated. Through many changes of fortune they