

thirty villages. In the course of the same century, a series of inundations opened an immense chasm in Northern Holland, and created the Zuyder Zee, causing the death of more than eighty thousand persons.

In 1421 a tempest swelled the Meuse, so that in one night the waters overwhelmed seventy-two villages and 100,000 inhabitants. In 1532 the sea burst the dykes of Zeeland, destroying hundreds of villages and covering for ever a large tract of country. In 1570 a storm caused another inundation in Zeeland. In the province of Utrecht, Amsterdam was invaded by the waters, and in Friesland 20,000 people were drowned. Other great inundations occurred in the 17th century; two terrible ones at the beginning of the 18th; one in 1825 that desolated North Holland, Friesland, Over-yssel, and Guelders; and another in 1855, which invaded the latter place and the province of Utrecht, and covered a great part of North Brabant.

Besides these great catastrophes, there happened in Holland, in different centuries, innumerable smaller ones, which would have been famous in any other country, and which in Holland are hardly remembered, as, for instance, the rising of the Lake of Haarlem, itself the result of the inundation of the sea. Flourishing cities of the gulf of Zuyder Zee vanished under the waters; villages of the coast, from Helder to the mouths of the Meuse, from time to time inundated and destroyed, and in all these inundations immense loss of life of men and animals. The church of