

its pleasant scenes, and studies the happier records of its history. It is the birth-place of many celebrated artists. It was here that Jacob Cuypp and his greater son were born. Here also Bol, Maas, and Scheffer first saw the light.

Proceeding to Delft—nicknamed ‘the city of misfortune,’ by reason of the numerous tragic events which have been enacted within its limits—the traveller will find much to interest him, and to indicate several of the peculiar characteristics of life in Holland. As he journeys thither, perchance his eye may be caught by the numerous windmills to be seen by the way. No insignificant affairs are they. “Some are made of stone, round and octagonal, like mediæval towers; others are of wood; and present the form of a box stuck upon the apex of a pyramid. The greater part have thatched roofs, a wooden gallery running round the middle, windows with white curtains, green doors, and the use they serve inscribed upon the door.” Their use is many-sided. Their chief use is, of course, the pumping of water; but besides this, they are employed to “grind flour, wash rags, crush lime, break stone, saw wood, crush olives, pulverise tobacco.” It is hardly to be wondered at, accordingly, that the number of the mills a man owns becomes the measure of his wealth, and that a girl can hardly bring a more acceptable dowry to her suitor, than the proprietorship of two or more mills.

The name Delft is derived from the ditch, or water canal, leading to it from the Meuse. The city is large and beautiful, with wide and cheerful streets and stately buildings. The great historical blot upon the fair name of Delft is the assassination of William the Silent, in 1584. A splendid mausoleum in the church, which has been called the Westminster Abbey of Holland, founded toward the close of the fourteenth century, reminds one vividly of the tragedy. The mausoleum bears an inscription “to the eternal memory of that William of Nassau, whom Philip II., scourge of Europe, feared, and never overcame or conquered, but killed by atrocious guile.” William is worthy of the honour which Holland seeks to pay to his memory. His brave resistance to the cruel ambition of Philip, who was obeyed by the Emperor of Germany as by a vassal, and who established a claim upon the support of England by his marriage with Queen Mary, reads like a romance. His overthrow of the ambitious plans of Philip in regard to Holland ranks among the great epochs of history. Simple in life, intrepid in war, marvellously skilful in design,