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DRAINING THE ZUYDER ZEE.



THE most stupendous hydraulic work ever attempted will shortly be undertaken by Dutch engineers. This is nothing less than pumping dry the stormy Zuyder Zee, and converting many hundreds of square miles of watery waste into fertile farms and smiling orchards. The German Ocean has been from time immemorial the implacable enemy of the sturdy and stalwart race who, behind their dikes and dunes, have defied its assaults, and again and again conquered wide reaches from its grasp.

Holland has been described by Hudibras as

A country that draws fifty feet of water ;
A land that lies at anchor and is moored,
In which men do not live, but go on board.

This amphibious country is well named Holland—the hollow land. Its character is indicated by its heraldic cognizance—a swimming lion, with the motto, "Luctor et Emergo," which may be freely rendered, "I struggle to keep above water." Much of the country lies below the level of the sea. These fertile pastures have been reclaimed from the domain of the sea by the daring industry of the Dutch, who have built great dikes, or embankments, to keep out the ravening sea, which, unlike the "ancient and unsubsidized allies of England"—an invulnerable de-



SUNDAY MORNING, NORTH HOLLAND.

fence—is an implacable enemy, perpetually besieging their earthen ramparts.

In spite of ceaseless vigilance against its assaults, the ocean sometimes bursts its barriers and turns fertile meadows and smiling valleys into a stormy sea—"Verdronken Land," as it is called—literally, "drowned land." Over and over again the patriotic Dutch have opened the dikes and laid their country far and wide beneath the waves, as their sole defence against Spanish tyranny. In the terrible