

wheat and all other grains. There is also a great quantity of *beet-sugar* made.

5. **Paris**, population 1,825,000, the capital, built on the Seine, is one of the finest cities of Europe; it contains many superb churches, magnificent monuments, splendid galleries of art, and libraries, not surpassed by any others in the world. The National Library contains over 700,000 volumes & 80,000 manuscripts.

6. **Lyons**, population 824,000, on the Rhone, is noted for its silk manufactures.—**Marseilles**, pop. 300,000 is the oldest city of France: it was built by the Greeks 600 years before Christ.—**Bordeaux**, pop. 194,000, is famous for its wines.

LESSON XLVIII

BELGIUM.

Area: 11,313 sq. m.—*Population*, 5,000,000

1. **Belgium** is a small kingdom situated N. E. of France; it is the most densely populated country of Europe in proportion to its size. The coast is very low, the centre undulating and the south mountainous.

2. Its *government* is a constitutional monarchy. *Catholicity* prevails.

3. Its *climate* is cool and moist. Agriculture is carried to a high degree of perfection; grain, hemp, flax, hops, chicory, clover and tobacco, are raised in abundance. Iron and coal are also found.

4. Among the manufactures, the principal are its lace and carpets, which are known all over the world under the names of Brussels lace and Brussels carpet.

5. Belgium was the theatre of many bloody battles; the most famous is that of *Waterloo*, in 1815, which decided the fate of Napoleon I.

6. **Brussels**, pop. 314,000, is the capital.—**Antwerp**, pop. 127,000.—**Ghent**, pop. 121,000, and **Liege**, pop. 106,000, are the other principal cities.



AMSTERDAM.

LESSON XLIX

HOLLAND.

Area: 13,890 sq. m.—*Population*, 3,700,000.

1. **Holland** is a small kingdom N. of Belgium. The sea-coast is so low that dikes are necessary to prevent a total inundation.

2. The country is watered by the Rhine, and the Meuse, which form a great number of islands at their mouths.

3. Its *government* is a constitutional monarchy. The *Presbyterian religion* prevails, but there is a great number of Catholics and Jews.

4. Its *climate* is humid and disagreeable, its *soil*, naturally sterile, has been rendered fertile by the industry of the inhabitants, the products are the same as those of Belgium.

5. *Foreign commerce*, especially with the East Indies, is very active.

6. **Hague**, pop. 93,000 is the capital—**Amsterdam**, pop. 282,000, the ancient capital, is the principal city.—**Rotterdam**, pop. 123,000, and **Utrecht**, pop. 61,000, are also fine cities.