

HOLLAND AND ITS PEOPLE.

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II.

DORT, or Dordrecht, situated a short distance from Rotterdam, well merits a visit. Historically it is one of the most interesting cities of Holland. It traces its descent from the tenth century. One writer speaks of it as "Dordrecht the hospitable." It was here that the famous Synod of Dort was held, early in the seventeenth century. The character and value of this synod will be variously estimated, as it is studied from different theological points of view. To one thinker this synod is a "stain upon the patriotic, generous, and liberal past of the city." To another it bears a relation to the Reformed Calvinistic Church, similar to that which the Council of Nicæa bears to the Church of the fourth century, or the Augsburg Assembly to the Lutheran Church. It was called, in part, to seek a settlement between the conflicting views of the followers of Arminius and the followers of Calvin. The famous Five Points were discussed. The decision resulted in the condemnation of the views maintained by the Arminians. The condemnation involved more than the *odium theologicum*. It carried with it civil penalties as well. Those who held Arminian views were not simply "branded as heretics, schismatics, and teachers of false doctrines, they were declared incapable of filling any religious or academical post." Banishment was the alternative presented to such as refused to sign the canons of the Synod. Nor was the threat of banishment an idle one. One hundred ministers and professors realized its meaning. Grotius and Hogerberts, the former one of the most scholarly men of his time, the latter Pensionary of Leyden, were sentenced to perpetual imprisonment. When death delivered Gilles, of Leydenberg, from captivity, his body was made to adorn a gibbet at Voorburg. At the advanced age of seventy-two, Olden-Barneveldt, companion of William the Silent, was beheaded. Woeful deeds to be done in the name of the Prince of Peace!

The traveller of to-day, however, may well afford to forget the evil memories of the past that belong to Dort, while he gazes upon