

Correspondence.

The following letter from President George A. Smith will be read with interest—

ANTWERP, Dec. 6th, 1872.

Most of our party suffered discomfort from sea-sickness in crossing the German Ocean. I was sick about eight hours. I lay on a lounge about two-thirds as broad as I am. I turned over occasionally to keep my balance. As soon as our party were fairly settled at the Bath Hotel at Rotterdam, I started with Elder Paul A. Schettler to visit his relatives at Zeist. They belong to a settlement of Moravians, a sect of Christians who came to Holland from Germany in 1745, in order to obtain religious liberty. They purchased sufficient land from the "Lord of Zeist" to build their houses and church and a place for burying their dead.

The fine brick meeting house, erected in 1745, is still sufficiently large, which indicates that their numbers are not increasing.

Although they came from Germany, they have lived in Holland until they are thoroughly Dutch. Their houses and grounds are very neat and clean. They have canals leading from the main canal of the kingdom, to all their business houses. This is the case throughout Holland, canals answering the place of roads in other countries.

Brother Schettler's relatives and friends were very glad to see him, and treated him with marked kindness and respect; seemed glad that I accompanied him. One of his uncles and one cousin spoke a little English, which was very gratifying to them and especially so to me. One of his aunts, a very intelligent lady, who has six children and one grandchild, seemed very anxious to talk. She took her carriage and carried us several miles to see the cathedral at Utrecht. Her husband showed me through his extensive establishment for manufacturing porcelain stoves, and ornaments of burnt clay. I regarded my going with Bro. Schettler as a fortunate circumstance, as it gave me an opportunity of becoming acquainted with some of the people of Holland at their own firesides. I was surprised at the number of beautiful trees which are growing in rows by the sides of the canals, and in small groves. Most of them are very beautiful. I recognized the basswood and the beech, although the bark looks greener than in the American woods.

Most all of the land appears to be but a few inches above the sea, and a good many thousand acres are lower than the sea, and are only drained by pumps run by wind-mills, which raise the water to higher levels, and run it off to the sea, it is then kept out by immense embankments. This would seem rather precarious—living lower than the German Ocean—when we consider that only a few hundred years ago, half a million people were drowned by the overflow. Much of the country then overflowed, has not yet been reclaimed.

On the 4th inst. we visited the Hague, the capital of Holland, examined its museum, and enjoyed a drive to the Queen's Palace, known as the "House in the wood." We then drove to the sea shore, and on our return stopped at the Bazaar. In the evening all called on the American Minister, Hon. Charles T. Gorham, who invited us to spend the evening and take tea. We accepted the invitation, and were introduced to Mrs. Gorham, a very pleasant and agreeable lady. We next went to the Cathedral at Haarlem, an immense pile. By paying thirteen florins we were privileged to hear the mammoth organ for an hour. It is truly a wonderful instrument containing 5000 metal pipes, and it is said 2000 more of wood. We saw embedded in the wall, a cannon-shot fired by the Spaniards in 1572. It is lodged near the pulpit, and was intended to kill the minister. We passed through Leyden, rendered famous in history by the vigorous siege by the Spaniards, during the revolutionary war of 1573-4, a contest between Catholicism and Protestantism, as well as between Dutch independence and Spanish tyranny. At Amsterdam we stopped at the Bible Hotel, and we visited a museum, famous for its old paintings. We also visited the King's Palace, and spent about two hours in the navy yard, examining the immense machine shops and other places in which the building of iron vessels of war is carried on. We saw one new monitor afloat, so arranged that they could sink the upper deck two feet under water, all but the turret. We also saw slabs of iron plating eight inches thick, one of which had several holes shot through, the ball first

penetrating twelve inches of hard wood, showing that they cannot make plates that cannon balls can not penetrate. Went through the marine arsenal, which contains a great variety of arms of various periods, many of which are now used in the Dutch navy. We drove to the cemetery. The monuments are stone slabs, polished until they are as smooth as glass; they are laid flat on the ground.

Elder Van Dyke, of Ogden city, called to see us, and Elders Little, Dunford, Schettler and myself went with him to the home of Brother De Groot, and met with a branch of the church, all of us speaking to them in turn, Bro. Schettler interpreting. Bro. Van Dyke has baptized twenty-seven since he came to Holland. He accompanied us to Rotterdam and stayed with us over night. We regard him as a faithful missionary, laboring under difficulties.

To-day we left the dominions of his Dutch Majesty, William II, and entered those of Leopold II, King of the Belgians. We had to stop and have our trunks and satchels examined, to see if we had anything on which we should pay duty, but on the whole we regarded the officers of our new king as rather courteous than otherwise, in the discharge of a not very pleasant duty. We are now at the Hotel de l'Europe. We have visited the great cathedral of Antwerp, remarkable for containing several original paintings by the immortal artist Rubens. We saw a man by the name of Van den Wildenberch, who has spent thirty-eight years of his life in making copies of Ruben's two master-pieces, one of the crucifixion of the Saviour, the other, taking him from the cross. Van den Wildenberch sells these at 300 f. a piece. Rubens is almost the idol of Antwerp. His statues and pictures are every where to be seen. We went to the church of St. Jacques, where we saw his magnificent tomb, above which hangs one of his own paintings—a portrait of himself, his two wives, one daughter, one son, and other members of his family.

Our only annoyance in regard to health is colds. The climate is damp naturally and the whole country is but a few inches out of water.

GEORGE A. SMITH.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 5, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

We, President Smith and party, are now located at "Old Bible Hotel" in the city of Amsterdam. We reached Rotterdam, Sunday, 1st December, having left London the previous evening. Tuesday we visited the Hague, Wednesday resumed our journey for this place, calling a few hours at Haarlem, and arrived here in the afternoon.

I now make a few extracts from my journal, beginning at Rotterdam. Our Hotel is pleasantly located—fronting a beautiful quay extending one and a half miles, bordering an extensive harbor, bearing on its placid bosom ships of largest tonnage from the four quarters of the globe.

The city of Rotterdam is situated on the river Maas—it is the second commercial city in Holland, numbering one hundred and twenty thousand inhabitants, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants. It is intersected by numerous canals of sufficient depth to accommodate large ships, which discharge their valuable burdens into the very heart of the city, producing stir and life truly wonderful, which renders the same very picturesque. A city filled with canals—floating ships in all directions—to strangers presents a romantic appearance, exciting surprise and admiration. These canals are crossed by numerous draw-bridges. The city is remarkably clean and orderly, considering its immense commerce and business. We visited the church of "St. Lawrence," containing several splendid marble monuments of Dutch heroes, bearing old Dutch inscriptions, which I regret to say baffled our best linguists. It has a magnificent organ with three key boards, seventy-two stops, four thousand and sixty-two pipes—the largest being thirty-two feet long and seventeen inches in diameter. This organ is supposed, by some, to equal if not surpass the famous instrument at Haarlem. The tower of this church is two hundred and eighty-eight feet in height: its summit affords a fine view of Dutch scenery—canals bordered with trees, country houses, straight avenues, broad arable fields, green pastures and meadows, forming a plane with no perceptible inclination; also numerous windmills, in motion, in every direction.

Rotterdam has several public schools. We saw eleven hundred children belonging to one of them of from four to eleven years of age. We remarked that their

countenances failed to exhibit those characteristics of health and longevity observable in the children of our Utah schools.

The Hollanders possess indomitable energy and perseverance. By untiring industry, towns and cities have been built upon trembling morasses—lakes and seas rolled from their beds, giving place to cultivated fields, green pastures and beautiful meadows. Portions of seas and lakes have been intersected and surrounded by dykes or embankments, the water pumped out by steam engines and windmills. This reclaimed land is intersected by canals and sects at suitable distances, taking advantage of every perceivable inclination, dead levels being the characteristic of the country, and yet the most formidable enemy a Dutchman has to combat. The main canals are continued through the country to some river, inlet or the ocean. In every instance the surface waters from a lower plane are conducted into canals running on a higher elevation, by windmills and steam engines, carrying an immense amount of surplus water, which is constantly gathering, especially in rainy seasons, out from these reclaimed districts. This process imposes a heavy tax on the wisdom and patience of the irrepressible Dutchman, initiating him imperatively into the practice of the mysteries of hydraulics. In Utah, we labor to secure water for our lands: here, the removal of it, and the preservation of life and property from its overflow, is a national work, which involves an almost infinitely greater amount of toil and expense. The least neglect in their operations exposes the country to devastation. In the province of Dort, in the fifteenth century, seventy villages were overflowed and one hundred thousand inhabitants destroyed.

From Rotterdam we proceeded to the Hague, containing one hundred thousand inhabitants. It is the most elegant, beautiful and fashionable town in Holland. It possesses no internal resources or advantages of commerce, but to the presence of the court, numerous nobles and diplomatists, who make it their residence, it chiefly owes its aristocratic and prosperous appearance. Many of its streets are broad and handsome, bordered with beautiful trees—its buildings lofty and substantial. A magnificent basin of water in the central part of the town, with an ornamental island and flocks of white, graceful swans, is the most fashionable locality.

The Hague and its environs are so flat that its waters in the canals are destitute of fall; this difficulty, however, is overcome by artificial arrangement. A steam engine on the Duenny, pumps fresh water into the canal by which an imperceptible current is formed, carrying a flow towards Rotterdam, where it is pumped into the river Maas.

The Museum attracted our attention. It contains a fine collection of curiosities in the lower part of the building, and in the upper a picture gallery embracing specimens by the most celebrated Dutch painters. I was so delighted with the beauty and artistic display that I invested in an opera glass. Our attention was attracted to a painting by Rembrandt, representing a school of anatomy, possessing rare merit and beauty of design and execution. This wonderful picture was purchased for about thirteen thousand dollars, by King William the First. It represents Prof. Tulp surrounded by his anxious pupils, in the act of dissecting a corpse. The subject perhaps is not very agreeable, but all of the figures, the expression of their features, the death appearance of the corpse, the whole was brought out with such profound skill as to invest the painting with an irresistible charm.

"Paul Potter's far-famed bull," regarded as the gem of the whole collection, also riveted our attention. The French carried it as a trophy to Paris and placed it among their pictures in the Louvre, and considered it worthy to rank as fourth in point of value. The Dutch government offered Napoleon twenty thousand dollars for its restoration. We were conducted through various departments appropriated to objects of curiosity of various descriptions. I will merely notice a model house constructed by order of Peter the Great with the intention of taking it to Russia to present to the Empress a view of the interior of a house in Amsterdam. This model is reported to have cost about twelve thousand dollars, and to have occupied twenty-five years in its completion.

We visited the Queen's palace, called "The House in the Wood," very romantically situated in an extensive park. We were conducted through the

principal apartments. The palace contains some excellent paintings, and magnificent silk tapestry of exquisite needle work done by Chinese and Japanese, representing birds of their country with their brilliant plumage, &c. This tapestry, we were informed by our conductor, was presented to the stadtholder William the Fifth, by the Emperor of Japan.

After many expressions of admiration, and, by request, having inscribed our names in the Queen's register, we proceeded to Scheveningen, a fashionable resort upon the sea coast, and enjoyed a splendid drive, passing through groves of majestic oak, elm and linden.

While at the Hague President Smith and party called on Mr. Gorham, the American Minister, who received us very cordially and insisted on the whole party joining him at tea and spending the evening, which invitation was accepted by President Smith in behalf of the party. Our interview in the evening with Mr. Gorham and his wife, a very intelligent, affable and accomplished lady, was agreeable and entertaining, and will ever be associated with the pleasant recollections of our visit to the beautiful Hague.

LORENZO SNOW.

Elder THOMAS PARDINGTON died in Mona, Juab County, on the 16th day of December, 1872.

He was born in Ashton, Macclesfield, England, where he embraced the gospel. He emigrated to Utah in 1862. He was a faithful Saint and a kind father. He leaves a widow and children.

Mil. Star. please copy.

[COM.]

In the 7th Ward of this city, Jan. 6th, of drop sy, ISABELLA, wife of Theodore Curtis.

On Nov. 28, of convulsions and child-birth, SARAH, wife of Henry Clay, of Oldham branch, Manchester Conference, aged 33 years and 9 months.—*Milennial Star*.

At Bedford, Nov. 23, of consumption, GEORGE WILLIAM SEARS, aged 18 years.—*Milennial Star*.

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