

South Holland as a Sketching Ground

NEAR SCHEVENINGEN

FROM A PENCIL SKETCH BY G. HORTON

SOUTH HOLLAND AS A SKETCHING GROUND. BY GEORGE HORTON.

WITH the advent of each succeeding summer and autumn, the same problem presents itself to the diligent artist, namely, what direction to take in search of fresh fields to conquer, or to be conquered by.

In this age of amateur missionary enterprise, when almost every one desires to persuade almost every one else to his own special and particular views, the aforesaid diligent artist is apt to become somewhat bewildered by manifold and conflicting counsels, and in despair he will probably pack up his traps and make a start for some region of which he knows little or nothing, only to find on arrival that the spot selected at random is anything but a bower of bliss, that his temporary lodging offers the minimum of comfort with the maximum of cost, that the commissariat department is bad beyond the dreams of badness, and that the object of his journey is in no way attainable.

With a view to assisting a visitor on sketching

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intent, the following cursory notes of a most enjoyable trip to the province of South Holland have been jotted down, in the hope that the information contained in them, scant though it be, may serve as a means of pointing out the towns and rural districts most prolific in paintable pieces, as well as to give some information concerning the nature of the subjects to be met with in the places mentioned.

In Rotterdam, the alert and observant seeker after the picturesque will find numberless subjects for the pencil ready to hand. Should he desire to devote his energies to figure studies, he will find no lack of interesting models, from the child with the "aspirant-au-ciel" profile, to the buxom, homely matron with features expressive of "a kind overflow of kindness," and her lord and master, the sturdy, square-built burgher, whose broad and open countenance conveys the conviction that he can hear the Decalogue and feel no self-reproach, and whose ample frame presents to view a quite amazing expanse of "undistributed middle." If, like Mr. Davidson's denizens of "A Northern Suburb," these good Netherlanders toil "through dread of coming