

## CHAPTER XX.

## HOLLAND, GERMANY, AND SWITZERLAND.

## HOLLAND.

“ A country that draws fifty feet of water,  
 In which men live as in the hold of nature,  
 And when the sea does in them break,  
 And drowns a province, does but spring a leak.”

*Hudibras.*

WE know little of the early manufactures of this country. The laces of Holland, though made to a great extent, were overshadowed by the richer products of their Flemish neighbours. “The Netherlanders,” writes Fynes Moryson, who visited Holland in 1589, “wear very little lace,<sup>1</sup> and no embroidery. Their gowns are mostly black, without lace or gards, and their neck-ruffs of very fine linen.”

We read how, in 1667, France had become the rival of Holland in the trade with Spain, Portugal, and Italy; but she laid such high duties on foreign merchandise, the Dutch themselves set up manufactures of lace and other articles, and found a market for their produce even in France.”<sup>2</sup> A few years later, the revocation of the Edict of Nantes<sup>3</sup> caused 4000 lace-makers to leave the town of Alençon alone. Many took refuge in Holland, where, says a writer of the day, “they were treated like artists.” Holland gained more than she lost by Louis XIV. The French

<sup>1</sup> In the census of 1571, giving the names of all strangers in the city of London, we find mention but of one Dutchman, Richard Thomas, “a worker of billament lace.”

<sup>2</sup> In 1689 appears an “Arrest du Roi

qui ordonne l'exécution d'une sentence du maître de poste de Rcuen, portant confiscat n des dentelles venant d'Amsterdam. Arch. Nat. Coll. Rondoneau.  
<sup>3</sup> 1685.