

### MR. DABNEY WRITES OF TRIP ABROAD

(Continued from last week.)

**Esperanto Congress Held.**  
Antwerp has many beautiful cathedrals. St. Jacques was the most richly adorned of any cathedral previously visited, and in it lie the remains of Hubens, not far distant stands his old house. While in the city I learned that the International Congress of Languages was in session and spent some time with them. There were over 1000 delegates, representing 32 languages. The United States was represented by three men from Boston. The object of the congress was for the adoption of the Esperanto language by which people of different tongues can understand and converse with one another. From what I could learn and understand, I think that it will never become of universal usage, but it might be of great benefit to those traveling in foreign countries and filling public places, and I don't know but if the understanding of the language be made one of the qualifications for those who are filling public places it might be of great benefit. Although the language was invented more than twenty years ago, there was but little interest taken in it until within the last seven years, and now there are schools where it is taught, and much of the literature being circulated.

Our next stop was at Rotterdam. It is an old-fashioned Dutch city with 400,000 people, and seems to be full

of life and everybody busy doing something. It has good shipping facilities and does a good commercial business. The city is greatly cut up with canals, with many bridges across them, mostly operated by the women.

**The Hague Attracts.**  
The Hague is a beautiful city of 250,000 people. It has some pretty parks and floral gardens. The house in the wood is out nearly two miles from the central part of the city. It is where the first peace congress was held in 1899. It has many fine rooms with good furnishings, but has been abandoned by the royalty. The Queen's city palace is a three-story plain structure but the inside finish and furnishings of two hundred rooms are very elaborate. From here we went to the old Spanish prison, a few blocks away, and in the different rooms we saw contrivances of every kind and nature for punishing human beings, and the blood-stained walls of the martyrs of long years ago.

**Scheveningen** is about three miles from the city on the North Sea beach and is the most beautiful and fashionable seaside resort in Holland, and it is quite interesting to saunter along the sandy beach and see the costumes of the Dutch Hollanders. Our next stop was at Amsterdam, which lies at the confluence of the Amstel with an arm of Zuiderzee. The city has 600,000 population and covers 90 islands, which are connected by nearly three hundred bridges. It has been said that it is a city sitting on the tops of trees, for every building foundation is laid on piling driven deep into the sand, consequently a great many of the older buildings are twisted, warped and leaning, and one will see a great num-

ber with props, sometimes there are props extending across narrow streets to keep the building from settling together. Notwithstanding this, there are thousands of strong, beautiful buildings with ornamental gables fronting the well-paved streets, and here we saw more artistic and better display windows in the stores and shops than in any other city that we have visited. Amsterdam is a great commercial city and much manufacturing is done there. It is the greatest diamond cutting and polishing city in Europe, if not in the world. With 70 factories employing 12,000 people. There are about 60,000 Jews, mostly from Eastern Europe, who occupy a good portion of the old part of the city. They have ten synagogues, the largest one belonging to the Portuguese Jews, who number about 4,000, and their synagogue is said to be an imitation of Solomon's Temple.

The zoological garden and museum is well worth a visit. Here more than ever before, we see the animals, etc., apparently in their natural habitat; caves, glens, rocky ledges and craggy places, with petrified trees, limbs, etc., and the imitations are so perfect in every way that one can hardly believe but that he is in the midst of a rocky and petrified forest.

**Harlem—Not New York.**  
Harlem is one of the prettiest little cities in Holland with sixty or seventy thousand people.

It is noted for its immense business in horticulture, and it sends bulbs, seed from an up-stairs window; it just tipped the back of my derby once to throw it into the street, and the one throwing it immediately disappeared and a little further along our driver had to use his whip to check the children and some of the older people from molesting us. Upon making inquiry we were informed by our guide that those people thought that we were English, for whom they have no love. We found Strassburg to be literally a city of storks.

The birds are always welcome guests in the city, and none are more pleased than the occupants of a place where a stork builds a nest on the chimney, for they believe that it will bring them good luck. The Strassburg Cathedral stands on the highest point of an old Roman fort, and is considered one of the finest medieval architectures in Germany. Its construction is of the red sand stone, brought from the Vosges Mountains through the Breusch canal, which was mostly built for that purpose.

The cathedral is richly adorned; it contains many beautiful sculptures. The spire is higher than the great pyramid and one may ascend nearly to its top by means of 660 steps.

The Astronomical clock in the rear of the building dates back to 1552, and is one of the wonders of the world. After its construction it ran for more than 100 years without repair, and since its last repair it has run constantly for 70 years. It tells the minutes, hours, days and the year. The four seasons, each represented by childhood, youth, middle and old age, and as a little angel with a hammer (located above the dial) strikes the time of day. The figures representing first season also represents the first quarter of the hour, and so on. When the clock strikes the Twelve Apostles come out and bow before the Saviour, who raises his hand and blesses them, and then the cock appears and flaps his wings and crows three times. The clock also shows the sun, moon and other planets in different parts of the world; the changes of the moon, eclipses, etc.

The clock is 66 feet high and 15 feet wide. Strassburg maintains one of the finest parks in Europe. Our next stop was at the quiet old city of Friburg, located at the edge of the Black Forest, and from the city one can see the "Bine Alpinian Mountains," which loom up against the distant sky. The Friburg Minster is very fine and interesting. There are many old Roman buildings scattered through the city, with their proarcuations. The Black Forest museum contains many antiquities in furniture made from the forest.

The country between Friburg and Zurich is mostly in small farms, meadows, etc., and the meadows dotted over with scattering fruit trees. At Basel we crossed into Switzerland, and almost at once could see a difference in the habits of the people and style of architecture in their buildings. Here nearly every house is painted white or light color, with red roof and green window shutters. Zurich lies near where Lenet emerges from Lake Zurich and is one of the most thriving and progressive cities we have seen. Zurich is the gateway between the Rhine country and scenic Switzerland, and in going from there to Lucerne, one passes through a very picturesque mountainous country.

Lucerne, with its 40,000 people, is located at the lower end of Lake Lucerne, and on both sides of the River Reuss. The lake is 23 miles in length and one-half to two miles wide, with arms extending out to the right and left, and is surrounded by mountains perpendicular rock walls extend from the clear, blue water up two or three thousand feet, while in other places there are plateaus and sloping mountains dotted over with pretty Swiss cottages and scattering fruit trees.

**Hotels on Mountains.**

On top of some of the mountains of five and six thousand feet elevation there are hotels that cost three or four hundred thousand dollars, and are reached by cog-wheeled railways, and from the hotel looking over a vast country of scenic beauty that will never be forgotten. The water in the lake is as blue as that of the ocean and where there is room, its borders are lined with pretty villages and driveways. Lucerne is strictly a tourist city, built on the site of a fishing camp 2,000 years ago, and some interesting walls and towers are the reminiscence of long ago. There are two peculiar wooden foot bridges diagonally across the river. They were constructed six hundred years ago, and are still used. They are each about twelve feet wide, and the roof is supported by massive arches, twelve feet apart, and near the top of each there is a painting representing some historical scenes of Switzerland. There are many things to see in Lucerne of much interest. The Swiss Monument, Glacial Gardens, the great amount of all kinds of wood carvings, the Panorama of Napoleon Cross-

ing the Alps, and cathedrals, are all well worth a visit. Brienz, Interlaken, Berne, are all interesting places, but for the want of time and space will pass on through many tunnels and over rugged mountains, by means of cog-wheel roads, etc., until we have reached the king of the Swiss lakes, "Geneva." And are now at Montseau, near the upper end of the lake. It has a population of 20,000 and extends around the winding shore for nearly three miles and is built on terraces on the side of the mountain, and from its resting place looks down on the peaceful blue waters and the great gray mountains beyond. The Chillon Castle, which is located on a small, rocky islet and covers an acre of space, is connected with the mainland by a draw bridge.

The date of its first construction is obscure, but there have been additions made from time to time since the eleventh century. It is near the road and the old gateway from Italy to the St. Gothard Pass, and it was to this castle that all who passed over the trail or road had to pay toll. There are many interesting rooms in it, and in going through we were shown the cell where Bonivard was left chained to a stone pillar for six long years. The chain is six feet long and is still attached to the pillar, and as I look at it I feel that it is full of the tortures, miseries and sadness of its long departed companion.

**Sees Execution Room.**

The execution room is 15x20 feet in size and the gibbet is still in place; in front of it there is a large double

window which swings on hinges, and after the execution the window was swung open and the lifeless bodies were cast into the waters below, more than 300 feet deep. Adjoining the execution there is the torture room, and from it, there is a winding stairway leading down to the dungeons below, and from them the prisoners were brought and placed on the rough, flat rocks (that lie on an angle of 45 degrees) the night before the execution. And there is no telling how many poor human beings have slept their last sleep while the quiet waters below waited for their lifeless bodies.

After leaving Montseau our boat see-sawed across the lake, back and forth from one interesting town to another, and we finally land at Geneva, the queen of the lake, which lies on

both sides of the River Rhone, where it leaves the lake. Geneva has many pretty parks and promenades bordering on the lake.

(To be continued)

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