

impressions of the country and the people are given in a letter to his brother, in which he writes:

"I looked upon this little country and its people with peculiar interest, because it was the 'home of our ancestors' on our father's side. In its external appearance it was much what I expected, but almost perfectly flat, and traversed in all directions by canals of all sizes. Everywhere there was evidence of thrift and careful culture. In the quiet inland cities, Utrecht, the Hague, Delft, one is impressed with Dutch industry and cleanliness. In the rural districts one sees more pleasant homes than in any other part of the continent that I have visited, and the Dutch gentlemen are credited with being specially fond of country homes.

"As to the people, I confess that I was greatly surprised by their appearance and manners. I expected to find them substantial and sensible, but rather heavy. On the contrary they are more like Americans than any other European people I have seen. A fairer-looking, brighter, more active, more intelligent people it has not been my fortune to encounter anywhere. Of course this is not equally true of all classes; there are heavy and stupid physiognomies, especially among the peasantry and a corresponding class in the cities. This is true among all the Germanic peoples, perhaps among all peoples. But speaking of the general average of the Dutch people as I saw them, I should say that in personal dignity and independence, quick intelligence, physical and mental alertness, and in certain indescribable physical characteristics, they are quite of the American type, with here and there in individuals something that is perhaps more suggestive of an Englishman.

"The Hague, which is the capital of Holland, is simply the most attractive city for a residence that I have seen in Europe; perhaps I should call it a quiet, wide-streeted, spacious, airy, elegant town, rather than a great city, with little trade or manufacturing, but full of pleasant homes and bright, handsome-looking people. I call it (though ten or twelve times as large, and a great deal flatter) 'the Madison of Europe.'"

The boyhood of Dr. Conover was spent in Dayton, then a