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## The Dutch Interlude—Controversy in Amsterdam

After his resignation from St. Stephen's, Davenport had "expected peace." Certainly, other clergy had been able to evade the authorities for a time after resigning their church livings. But in his case, "another pursuivant was sent out for me, who gave out great threatening." Having been approached with an offer to preach to the English Church in Amsterdam, he decided to accept. As he explained it, he thought that in the Netherlands he "might be safe in my person and profitable in the fruit of God's blessings upon my labors to that church for a time, and that upon my absence the displeasure conceived against me would be mitigated, and my return, after a convenient time, would be made more safe."<sup>1</sup> In November 1633 Davenport crossed the North Sea to Haarlem. According to a report filed from the Netherlands, his passage was arranged by a merchant of Coleman Street on a cloth ship owned by a Mr. Humphrey. He traveled "disguised in a gray suit, in an overgrown beard," landing in Haarlem and then traveling to Rotterdam.<sup>2</sup> There he spent some time with his friend Hugh Peter, who ministered to the English merchant congregation there. After staying for a short time, sufficient to have received from Peter information on the state of the English churches in the Netherlands, he moved on to Amsterdam.

In coming to the Netherlands, Davenport entered a new world. This was a land with republican rather than monarchical government. It was part of the battlefield for the struggle between Protestants and Catholics that we call the Thirty Years' War. He was exposed to new ideas and customs that led him to rethink much of what he had taken for granted. That conflict made many believe that the millennium was approaching, and his exposure to those fighting in the war and those who speculated on its significance led