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## The Hague and Rotterdam

In November 1634, Samuel Hartlib recorded that Davenport hoped to preach in Rotterdam in place of William Ames, who had died the previous November.<sup>1</sup> Ames, who had made many of his contributions to theology as a professor at the University of Franeker, had joined Hugh Peter in the pastorate of the English Church in Rotterdam in August or September of 1633. But shortly after Ames arrived, his house flooded and he developed pneumonia. He died on November 11. When John Forbes was forced from his ministerial post in Delft, he moved to Rotterdam. But he died in August 1634, before he could be joined to the ministry of the church. Davenport, whose candidacy at Amsterdam had failed, was a logical choice to join Peter. Furthermore, the two men had known each other for many years, Peter having journeyed to London as a young clergyman to hear Davenport preach, and Davenport having interceded with the Earl of Warwick to secure a ministerial post for Peter in Essex around 1623.<sup>2</sup>

Rotterdam was one of the principal ports of the Netherlands, its name derived from a dam erected on the River Rotte in the thirteenth century. Incorporated as a village in the early fourteenth century, Rotterdam had quickly grown.<sup>3</sup> At the time when Davenport was there, it was the second-largest city in the Netherlands, eclipsed only by Amsterdam. In 1634 the Englishman William Brereton visited the city and was impressed with what he saw. In the harbor he saw “an infinite number of tall and gallant ships,” including thirty of the Dutch men-of-war, docked in channels fifty or sixty yards broad that divided the streets of the port. Bridges and drawbridges spanned the channels. On one of the bridges, “seventy or eighty yards broad” and with “a fair market-place upon it,” he found “the portraiture of Erasmus, of very large stature, with a book in his hand.”<sup>4</sup> He found “windmills here in