

Where to Spend a

CHARMING HOLIDAY.

This year's . . .
unparalleled . . .
amusement at

OSTEND

Unique Exhibition of
early Flemish and Dutch Art
at **Bruges.**

Unrivalled facilities offered to
Travellers to every part of
Belgium by the
Dover-Ostend Route.





Where to . . .

Spend a

CHARMING

HOLIDAY.



By . . .

HILDA M. ODDIE.

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“**W**HERE TO GO”
and “What to
do” are the

questions every one is considering now that after months of toil in the great cities, welcome holiday time is at hand. Over and over again most enjoyable and attractive trips are thrust aside as being quite beyond the limits of a modest purse, while others uninteresting are chosen, which in the end cost double and are no change at all. For a “real” holiday of the most enjoyable kind, with innumerable attractions, and sights and scenes different to anywhere else, and



*H.M. King Leopold II. of Belgium,
The great benefactor of his country through whose
energy and enterprise Belgium has become not
only a centre of Commerce, but also one of the
most attractive countries in the world.*

Photo. by Gérusot Frères, Brussels.

at the same time entailing the lowest possible cost, there is nothing to compare with a visit to Ostend and all parts of interesting Belgium, the country which has now become a mere step over the way through the short but delightful sea passages by the fast and magnificent mail steamers of the Dover-Ostend route, which are replete with every luxury and convenience.



These passages are always bright, breezy, and bracing, and full of interest, and the whole trip to this charming country makes one of the most delightful changes that it is possible to take. Too much cannot be said in praise of the splendid way in which the Belgian Minister of Railways, and the Belgian State Railway Administration have come forward and are offering unrivalled facilities not only in connection with the passage over by the steamers, but also in connection with the luxuriously-fitted International Corridor and other express trains, and all other trains of the State Railways, to enable everyone to visit all the beautiful old-world towns with their wonderful art treasures, and the bright bracing places along the Belgian coast, and all parts of the lovely Belgian Ardennes district, including the marvellous grottoes of Han and Rochefort, which are quite the wonder of the world.

Everything is arranged on a most generous scale, both in connection with the Belgian fortnightly tickets, and also the cheap excursion tickets in connection with the long date excursions from the north of England, and also the through excursion and other tickets to Switzerland and all parts of the Continent. All over Belgium visitors from England and other countries are enthusiastically welcomed, and accommodation is readily found both at Ostend, Brussels, Antwerp, and in all parts of the country, to suit not only the most luxurious wants, but also the most modest.

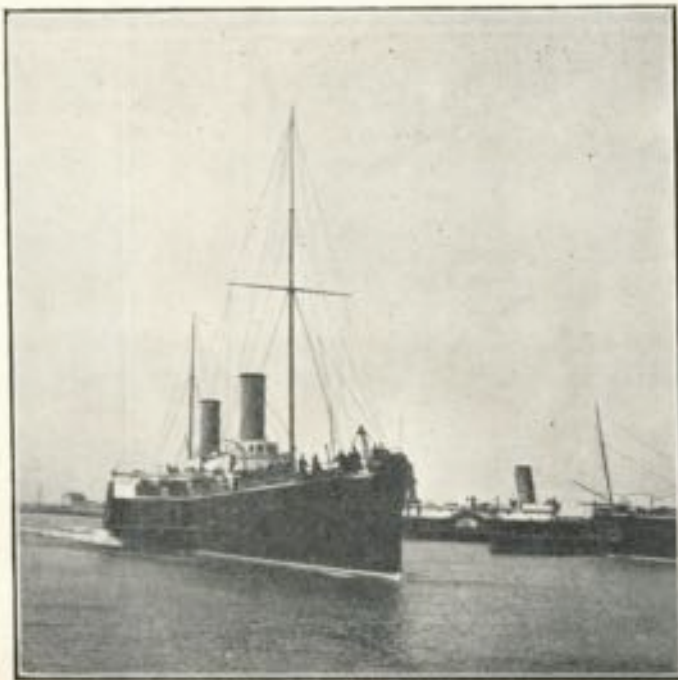
The enormous active interest taken by H.M. the KING OF BELGIUM in connection with every enterprise, great and small, to do with his kingdom, sheds





Passengers embarking at Dover on a Belgian Royal Mail Steamer.

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



The latest photograph of the magnificent Royal Mail Steamer "Princess Clementine," the first Channel steamer fitted with the unique installation of the Marconi Wireless Telegraphy, which is about to be placed upon every steamer of the line, through the great forethought of the Belgian Minister of Railways, who, with the Belgian State Railway Administration leave nothing undone to secure the safety of mails and passengers crossing by the route. The photograph of the steamer entering Ostend Harbour shows the "Marconi" mast.

Photo. by A. C. Odille.



*"The Princess Clementine" disembarking passengers at Ostend, showing the new
Marconi Wireless Telegraphy Cabin.*

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



untold lustre upon everything over there, and the splendid ovation and burst of loyalty which greets His Majesty whenever he appears on public occasions, in all parts of his dominion, shows the marvellous popularity which the King enjoys. This is always in evidence at Ostend, where His Majesty takes every opportunity of staying during the summer, at his beautiful marine palace, never ceasing to take a deep interest in everything that takes place at this bright seaside resort, and in all the places round.

Ostend is one of the very finest and most bracing spots in the world; no other seaside place equals the attractions of this very Queen of watering places, or has ever enjoyed its world-wide popularity. From morning to night the whole place is alive with gaiety, and *never before has there been such a prospect of enjoyment as this year.* A splendid programme of events has been arranged to take place the whole summer through.

It is at Ostend that KING LEOPOLD mingles in his own well-known gracious way among his people, ever ready to join in their joys and sympathise with their sorrows. It is here that he is known and loved, and many an act of kindness, often to little children, will never be forgotten, lingering in the hearts of those who love him well. It is at Ostend, too, that His Majesty shows a most active solicitude in every enterprise that tends to the welfare and progress of the town, ever lending his valuable aid and intervention in connection with all the vast undertakings that are proceeding, in which he never ceases to take





*The Fashionable Digue,
Ostend.*

Photo. by Demuynuck, Ostend.



The vast expanse of Sands at Ostend, where thousands bathe daily during the Summer.



*The Town entrance to the splendid Kursaal, showing the
handsome improvements. Photo. by A. C. Oddie.*

a profound interest. This year the great personal interest taken by the King in connection with this "pearl" of his kingdom is more than ever apparent, and, encouraged by this gracious interest, the popular Mayor and Mayoress, and the Municipality of the town, **are leaving nothing undone to make the season the most brilliant one that has ever taken place**, and endless day and evening fêtes and entertainments have been planned. A large number of extra attractions have been added, and Ostend's magnificent Digue is likely to be the scene of the most fashionable gathering that has ever assembled there. Everything is to be done on a grand scale. The splendid Kursaal has been very greatly enlarged and magnificently decorated, regardless of cost, and, with the exquisite new marble entrance hall and staircase, has excited intense admiration. Grand concerts by the first artists of the world have been arranged to take place in the colossal



A Corner in Monsieur Stracké's interesting Museum, Mariakerke.

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



Crowds listening to the Band in the Place d'Armes, Orléans.

Photo. by A. C. Odette.



*One of the most beautiful sights during the International Regatta Week at Ostend—
Yachts in the gaily-decorated Harbour.*

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



*Snap-shot taken at the Entrance of the Hippodrome Wellington,
Ostend, on a race day.*

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



building, and also some of the most celebrated Parisian plays will be performed ; quite a new innovation.

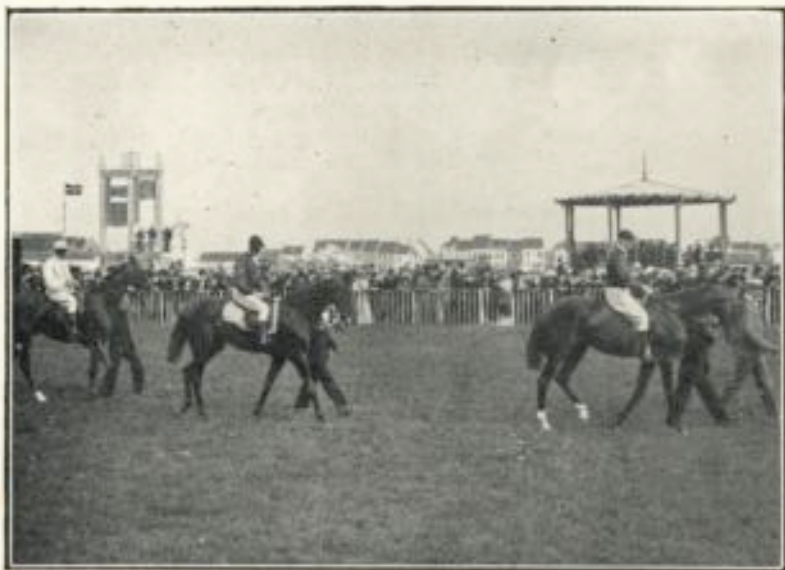
Then at Ostend there are so many great fêtes, races, "batailles des fleurs," theatrical performances at the theatre, the Viennese and other ladies' bands, open-air concerts, at which thousands promenade to and fro on the beautiful summer evenings in the Place d'Armes ; pigeon shooting, dancing, cyclist fêtes, and other things, until day and night seem to mingle in one long round of pleasure. The shops too at Ostend are always bright and most attractive, in the Rue de la Chapelle, the Rue d'Ouest, and other streets. There is no more popular event during the summer than **Ostend's great International Regatta**. This enjoyable week, which takes place in the height of the brilliant season and is looked forward to by thousands from year to year, is entirely organised and admirably carried out by the Royal Ostend Yacht Club, and commences this year on Monday, July 21st, with two matches from Dover to Ostend. The regatta is under the immediate patronage of H.M. King Leopold, who shows the greatest interest in everything to do with it, and this, and the excellent way in which everything to do with it is carried out, by Monsieur Mersch, the highly-esteemed President, and Monsieur Golder, the very energetic and hard-working Hon. Secretary, supported by the very able committee, has brought unending success and universal popularity to this famous regatta, the finest yachts from England and other countries competing, and numbers of people going to Ostend expressly at this most enjoyable time. The whole scene during the week, of the white winged yachts flitting about, and especially on the day of the great national fête, when the town and harbour are gay with bunting in honour of





*H.M. King Leopold II. at the Races, Hippodrome Wellington,
Ostend.*

Photo. by Demuynck.



Procession of Horses at a great race, Hippodrome Wellington; the President of the Course, Baron Von Loo, walking in front.

Photo, by A. C. Oddie.



*Monsieur Pieters, Odessa's popular Mayor, greeting Baron Von Loos,
President of the Course.*

Photo. by A. C. Odette.



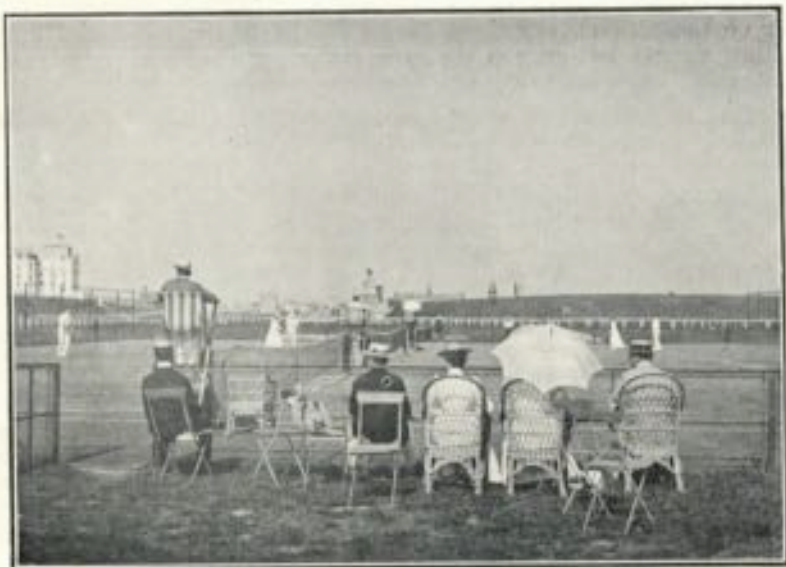
the King's birthday, is simply charming, and it is particularly gratifying to see the Union Jack of old England and flags of almost every other country mingling with the red, yellow, and black flag of Belgium.

The nautical fêtes in connection with the Union Nautique Ostendaise are delightful too, all through the season at Ostend.

English sports abound, and it is astonishing to see how the different sports of Ostend are concentrated into one big centre. The Hippodrome Wellington with its splendid racecourse, the Velodrome where the pigeon shooting takes place, and the delightful tennis courts are all close to each other, and all these resorts are exquisitely laid out with gay borders of pink and scarlet geranium, which gives a dazzling appearance and is quite a Continental idea, all owing to the enormous sums spent by the authorities on improvements, to make Ostend an ideal spot to all who enjoy sport in its most luxurious form.

The **Hippodrome Wellington** is the very centre of attraction. The valuable money prizes given for horse racing has each year attracted ever-increasing competitors from all parts, and the scene on the course, in the grand stand and enclosure, with the brilliant toilettes of the ladies, is simply charming. Every sport in Ostend has the immediate patronage of the King, and the races are continually graced by the presence of His Majesty. This year the number of events to take place at the Hippodrome have been greatly extended, and, favoured with bright weather, the season promises to surpass all previous ones. It would be impossible to





View of the perfect Lawn Tennis Courts at Ostend.

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



overrate the valuable services rendered by Baron Von Loo, the very courteous President of the Course, whose wonderful energy and perseverance has ensured such brilliant success not only to the horse racing but to the other sports of Ostend which has made him so extremely and deservedly popular.

Ostend is so accessible to so many other places of interest within easy distance, where it is possible to go and return on the same day, either by train, tram, cycling, or driving. It is impossible to visit any Belgium town without finding something well worth the journey. **Bruges**, with its dear old Belfry and rare antiquities it is never possible to see too much of. Everyone will be well rewarded by visiting this beautiful historic old town this year, where during the whole summer one of **the most interesting exhibitions of early Flemish and Ancient Art is taking place.** The Exhibition is under the patronage of H.M. King Leopold, who is taking a most active interest towards its success. It will be held in the Academy of Bruges, and also in the famous old Gruuthouse Palace and other ancient buildings. Concerts of Ancient and Modern Music and frequent Historical and Archaeological Lectures will be given to recall the ancient glory of the town, while from the celebrated Belfry will be rung special chimes.

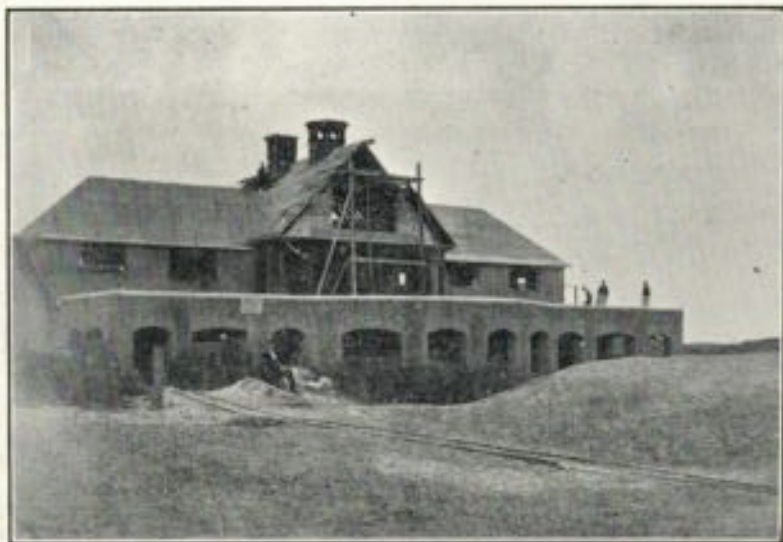
The trips all along the coast are most pleasant ; to fashionable **Blankenberghe** and **Heyste**, and to the rising new little watering place **Coq-sur-Mur**, on the way, which bids fair to become most prominent for its splendid **new Golf Links.** Here again H.M. the King is showing untold interest. It would be impossible to find a better place for this popular sport, and the great personal interest taken





*Facsimile of the quaint advertisement on the walls at Bruges, announcing
the unique Art Exhibition.*

Photo. by A. C. Oddie.



The handsome Pavilion, nearly completed, for the splendid Golf Links at Cog-sur-mur.

Photo, specially taken for H. M. Oddie, by Demuynck, Ostend.



*The Pulpit in the Cathedral of St. Gudule,
Brussels, the most beautiful piece of carving
of the kind in existence.*



in the whole scheme by His Majesty has resulted in every arrangement being simply perfect in connection with it. The station is close to the links, and steam trams run frequently to it from Ostend, taking only 25 minutes. One of the most perfect and handsome club houses is being rapidly completed, and everything is being done to ensure complete success. T.R.H. Prince and Princess Albert of Belgium have already paid several visits there of some duration.

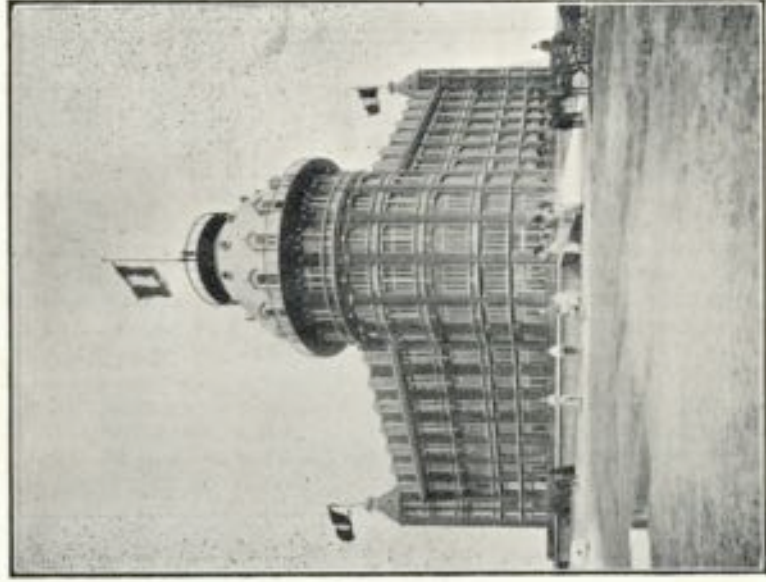
On the west side of Ostend there are trams running all along the shore to Mariakerke, Middlekerke, and Nieuport. Nothing is more invigorating than to go to these places by them, or to take a walk along the Digue to Mariakerke, to see the most interesting Museum, which is free to visitors, belonging to Monsieur Stracké, the popular proprietor of the excellent Hotel d'Allemagne, Ostend, a hotel that cannot be too highly recommended.

From Ostend it is so easy to go to Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Ypres, Tournai, Liège (which is already making preparations for the great Exhibition of 1905 to take place there), Spa, and other towns, all overflowing with interest, by the splendid service of trains always running.





*"Charming Dinant," one of the most captivating towns on the
river Meuse.*



*A glimpse of the Grand Hotel Citadelle, on the heights
above lovely Nanter.*



*The lovely Cascade de Coe, near Spa, the great health resort
of Belgium.*



NAMUR, and the Valley of the Meuse.

It is not too much to say that those who have visited the most beautiful parts of the world revel in lovely Namur and Dinant, and all the charming parts of the Belgian Ardennes, and in the marvellous grottoes of Han and Rochefort, and the valley of the Meuse, with unending variety of excursions in every direction. This lovely district contains the finest, boldest, and most beautiful rock and forest scenery in the world. Here again accommodation of every sort is extremely moderate, and this, and the extreme beauty of the surroundings, which it would be impossible to surpass, accounts for the number of English, of all classes, who are to be met with in every direction. Beautiful walks and drives abound, and there are numberless excursions to be taken by rail and river, and charming cycle routes. Namur and Dinant are the very centres of delightful excursions. Standing at the summit of the ancient citadel at Namur, and commanding magnificent panoramic views, is the Grand Hotel de la Citadelle, a splendid structure, which fills with visitors from all countries, and has everything modern, is most luxuriously furnished, and at the same time has excellent accommodation at the most moderate prices.





*View in the mysterious Grotto of Han, one of the most marvellous
sights in the world.*

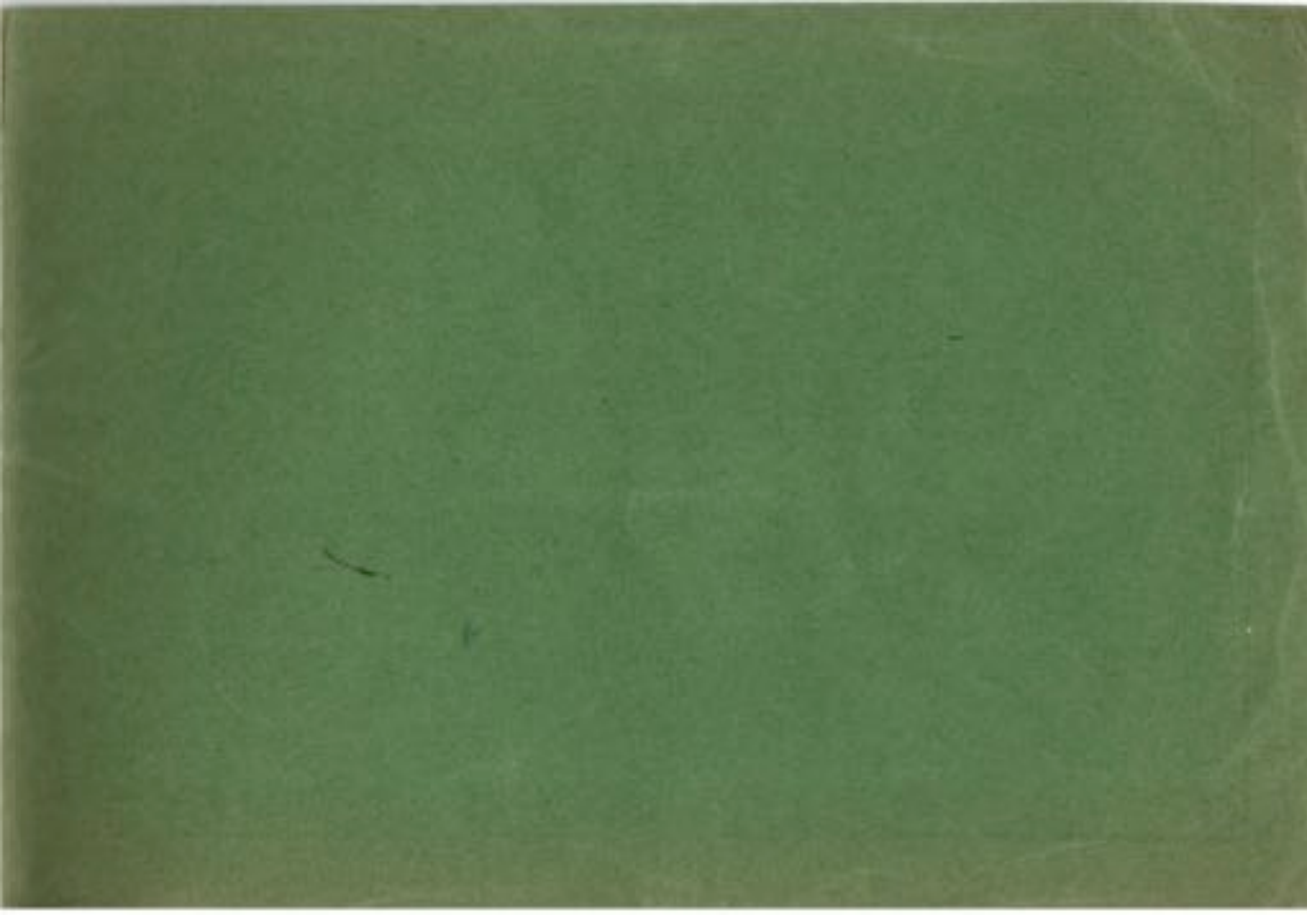
Photo. by Boyer, Paris.



Grottoes of Han.

There is something marvellous and deeply mysterious connected with the Grottoes of Han, one of the **most interesting and at the same time enchanting sights in Belgium.** In the midst of lovely scenery the mountain of Han comes majestically into view. Through this stately mountain the river Lesse has **bored** its way, forming one of the greatest curiosities in existence. The electric light in the great Domes, and the lamps carried through the long passages with their glittering crystals hanging overhead, by the willing guides, makes the passage through most easy, and everyone who wishes to see things wonderful, sublime, and mysterious beyond all precedent, and at the same time most fascinating, should visit these lovely grottoes, formed by nature. They are most easy of access from Rochefort or Eprave Stations, by the number of express and other trains which go right into the heart of this lovely district. **Everyone who passes through the grottoes will have a deep impression left upon their minds.**





**VAN ISEGHEM
AUGUSTE**

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