

very kind to the sufferers, and did all that they could to help them. The famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren, had a plan for rebuilding the city so that there would be no more narrow, winding streets, but the owners of property would not agree to any great changes, and the city was rebuilt on almost the same foundations, though much brick and stone was used instead of wood. Some good at least was done by the fire in destroying so many of the plague-infested houses.

183. **The war with Holland.**—While London was suffering from these disasters, the English navy was engaged in a stubborn contest with the Dutch fleet.

The war was caused by the re-enactment of the Navigation Act, and by the rivalry of the two nations in the Indian trade. The war went on in India, along the coast of Africa, and in America, where an English fleet seized the Dutch colony of New



COSTUMES, TIME OF CHARLES II

Amsterdam, thereupon renamed New York, in honour of the Duke of York, the king's brother. A series of bloody battles took place off the eastern coast of England. The enormous amount of £2,500,000 had been voted by Parliament to carry on the war. But this money, which should have been spent in keeping the navy in repair and in supplying men and guns, was squandered by the king on his friends and favourites. The result was that in 1667 the Dutch sailed up the Thames and blockaded