

a strong literary fermentation—it was the day of such—had arisen amongst the younger generation, the vigour of which you can judge by its matured products in Wergeland, Welhaven, and a little later Björnson, Ibsen and Vinje, besides a dozen others of lesser note. Strong currents of enthusiasm and excitement were set flowing in a people who had regained after hundreds of years a self-government which reminded them of the far back years when the fame of Norse kings and jarls went through every European land. It takes an effort for us to realize the feeling of a Norwegian when a Norse assembly met once again. The joy and enthusiasm were without limits, and the expectations as well. For the next half century Norwegian poetry resounds with patriotic songs asserting the warlike spirit (*Kjaempeand*) of the Norsemen and with never failing references to these old Hakons and Olafs of the Viking period. Every writer considers it a sacred duty to add his variation to old Nordahl Brun's *For Norge Kjaempers Födeland*. Wergeland, the most national of the poets of that time, sang with his usual vigour and verve that Norway's high time had now come:

"Now is Norway's high hour come; her ancient Ting meets once more and the voice of every Norse vale is heard high and clear in solemn council. . . . See Gudbraudsvale sits there in the person of a gray old man! When he rises in the assembly, all listen! . . . Oh, what joy for thy old towers, Akershus, could thou see Hakon's times again!"

Radicalism in Norway.

It was in vain that Wergeland's great rival, the fine-thoughted and classical Welhaven, attempted to moderate what he considered the raw enthusiasm of his countrymen by the sharp satire of *Norges Daemring*, a famous Sonnet series published in 1834. He had support enough from the intellectual circles of Christiania, but the people, the farmer, the minister, the schoolmaster (a great personage in Norway) was all with Wergeland, true type of the high-spirited Norwegian—*den kække Normand*—just as later it was all with the genial and magnificent optimism of Björnson. A sort of radical-nationalist movement began to gather strength. It was founded very much on an idealized view of the innate