

nexions and trade with other States—especially with England—there is no country whose friendship is so indispensable, and whose ill-will is so detrimental, to Denmark as Germany. Germany has contributed more than any other nation to all our development ; as for trade, much of what we export goes to Germany, and by far the greatest part of our imports is brought in from her ; as for our culture, German art and science have given us many impulses, while on the other hand Danish artists, authors, and poets have found more appreciation in Germany than anywhere else. As for political relations, our very independence is at the mercy of Germany ; we have learnt in 1864 that even the guarantee of all the Great Powers could not maintain our integrity against the will of Germany ; therefore, in view of her tremendous development and our fatal decline since that time, nothing remains for us but to put all our hope and confidence in the justice and magnanimity of that great nation. Whatever may be our sympathy or antipathy, we have no choice ; the question of self-preservation dictates our line of conduct as an inevitable necessity. We must do our utmost to satisfy the claims, and avoid everything that might tend to awake the suspicion and discontent, of our powerful southern neighbour.

It is very difficult to ascertain how many there are who really accept these arguments ; there are others who denounce them as below the standard of an independent nation's self-respect ; and in spite of all the reasons which give weight to them, there are many—in my opinion by far the greater part of the Danish nation—who argue in quite a different way. I shall now try to give a summary of their views, and to make clear the foundation on which they rest.

If we desire to judge clearly, without risk of deceiving ourselves as to our real interests and situation, it is absolutely necessary to take our departure from a historical point of view. Looking at the main outlines, it