

Germany, in spite of military admiration of Prussian methods, in spite of the reckless agitation carried on by men like Sven Hedin, the Swedes have found it extremely hard to become enthusiastic about the Germans, whose arrogance, smug self-complacency, and unfailing tactlessness are constantly grating on them. During the war of 1870-1, for instance, Swedish sympathies were overwhelmingly with France. For all their hatred of official Russia, the Swedes have never hated the Russians as individuals. On the other hand, the feeling against the individual German has at times been so strong that I have heard of German travellers in Sweden speaking English or French in order not to reveal their nationality. Toward the Prussian military spirit and methods the people of Sweden have always manifested a profound distrust and dislike. Although strongly individualistic, the Swedes are at bottom very democratic. What, then, has given Germany the hold on Swedish sympathies which undoubtedly it has to-day? The answer is very simple: the rapprochement between Russia and England. As long as those two Powers remained mutually suspicious of each other, Sweden felt comparatively secure. The understanding between England and France was probably a disappointment, and the effect of it was augmented by the simultaneously increasing hostility between Germany and Russia. But it was only the final completion of the Triple Entente that was felt as a direct blow—the worst one received by Sweden for a long time. For with England tied to Russia, not only by diplomatic engagements but by the exigencies of her own situation, what hope could there be for Sweden in a case of Russian aggression?

If we also bear in mind the dismay caused in German