

ments in the minds of many Swedes. In the late nineties when there was a revival of the movement, Bengt Lidforss, a well-known Lund professor, warned his countrymen to put a little more coolness into their relations with the Danes, as Germany had her vigilant eye on them. After the break with Norway that distinguished Swedish publicist, Harald Hjärne, congratulated himself that at least Swedish foreign policy need no longer be influenced in an anti-German direction. For these reasons Swedish Scandinavianism had been apt to take an ideal rather than a practical form. In short, the three Scandinavian peoples had once more failed to solve their problem.

*Björnson Looks at His Work.*

A year after Norway had dissolved the union, Björnson fulfilling an old promise went to Copenhagen to address the Danes on "the future of the North."\* It must have been a delicate task for him. He had been a leader in every decentralizing movement that had insulated Norway in literature, art and politics from her two sister nations, except that he was not an extreme landsmaal or native dialect man. He had been the popular force behind the politicians and led the hurrahs on all occasions. And now that the countries had fallen clean apart and the Scandinavian ideal was as good as dead, he came down to the depressed and discouraged little people of the Danes to talk about the "Future of the North." He was a man of the finest literary genius with a power of moving speech which old age—he was now past seventy—had perhaps improved rather than weakened, for if his eloquence was less fiery it had a fine simplicity of accent and phrase which went to the heart. It needs an effort to steady oneself against the old man's speech and keep a fixed eye on its inner inconsistencies. You have to abstract the logical lines of thought from that cover of moving words and look at them in their nakedness to realize the situation he is describing. He does not attempt to hide that the ideal of Scandinavian unity has been destroyed and that the peoples are more apart than they were in 1864 or when Norway entered the union. He admits

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\*See *To Taler*, published by Gyldendal.