

nish or Fennomannish party which chooses to date Finland's freedom and independence from its connection with Russia. But the measures of Russification which began in the nineties may have altered their view of history a little. One must know such situations very well and very closely to judge them, and not listen merely to the loud talkers.*

The Union of Sweden and Norway.

The loss of Finland was a deep wound to Sweden's pride. "Weep, Svea, for what thou hast lost," sang her greatest poet, Tegner, and Geijer spoke of "the shining height from which we have fallen but shall yet regain." For at this very time there was a new spring of hope for Sweden in the fact that the Allies in recompense for the assistance of the Swedish army in the last campaign against Napoleon had decreed that Norway, hitherto subject to Denmark, should be transferred to Sweden. This was an accession of strength to Sweden which seemed at first as if it would more than compensate for the loss of over-sea territory. The exchange was a gain to Norway also, transferring it from subjection to an absolute monarchy to a constitutional position in the new union. But the Norsemen were not content to be disposed of in this manner, a national assembly met at Eidsvold, drew up a free and very democratic constitution for the country and elected a Danish prince as their king. Sweden indignant at the prospect of losing on all sides, marched an army on Norway. Both sides felt, however, that it was an unfortunate strife and a compromise was made by which Norway entered into the union under the Swedish crown but with her own constitution. For a time there was high expectation in all the Scandinavian countries over this event, their poets celebrating in moving verse this "union of the North," of powers, as the Danish poet, Carl Ploug, sang twenty years later, "that could have ruled the world" had they been united. The ideal of Scandinavian unity began to take form. Karl Johan (Bernadotte) and the Swedes had their hopes also, never doubting but that with time the union

*Articles and booklets on the Finnish question have been numerous of course since the outbreak of the war, most of the latter obviously of German inspiration.