

felt the smart when hoisting an alien unfamiliar flag . . . . With joy does Norway behold thee, proud, free flag that Olaf once and Sigurd the Crusader bore o'er the wild wave. As Northern Lights shalt thou shine far over the blue of ocean. And Norway shall win again her ancient glory there." But now, in 1898, there was a further agitation for the removal of the sign of union from the flag, and this year it was accordingly removed from the mercantile flag. In 1905 the discord came to a head over the question of a separate consulate for Norway, whose shipping indeed was considerably greater than Sweden's. The Storting for the second time passed a resolution to establish separate consulates. The feeling in Sweden was that at least such an important step should have been taken only after the consent of both peoples, and King Oscar accordingly refused his assent to the measure. The Storting retorted by declaring that King Oscar had ceased to reign. A plebiscite approved the Norse ministry's action almost unanimously. Björnson praised the premier Michelsen in verses which declared that his clear intellect had set the course for the ship of State and piloted it straight into the haven,—haven of independence or popular government apparently, for I am not quite sure what he means by *folkehavnen*.

So ended the "union of the North", which was to renew the glory of old Norse days. At the worst of the crisis the Norse fleet and army had been held ready for action. No doubt the fault was not all on one side. Sweden with her superior resources and famous history which did not need to go back to the Viking age for its glories, may have thought too little at first of the Norwegian country, and of course there were the usual rash speeches of hot-headed fools in the Swedish parliament sure to be reported in large type by newspapers in search of sensations or of something to help their party. There was also, however, some difference of views and policy in relation to Russia and foreign countries in general. While Norway tended to English views, Sweden tended to German ones. The enthusiasm of the Danes for Scandinavian unity had its root originally in their need of protection against Germany, as Carl Ploug had openly stated in his address to the meeting of Scandinavian students at Uppsala in 1843. But this very fact came to operate eventually against the move-