

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 accord-  
ingly 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 resolu-  
tion 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 unani-  
mously. 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 Ger-  
many, 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-