

race that sailed to Troy." And to Magdalene Thoresen he expresses himself even more disconsolately as if he doubted any enduring future even for the intellectual or spiritual life of his people. "We have not the will-power," he says, "to make the sacrifices the time calls for." (Letters, Sept. 1864 and Dec. 1865). He was wrong about the intellectual life, both as regards Sweden and Norway, and he himself mainly contributed to falsify his prophecy in this respect as the first author of really European or world-wide fame in these two countries, for neither Tegner nor Björnson can quite compete with him in this respect. But he commenced by immortalizing his scorn of the Scandinavian failure and of the phrase-making of modern Radicalism in *Peer Gynt* and *The Young Man's Union*. The old saga and Viking themes, Heroes of Helgeland and the like he never touched again, but went on to evolve a new social drama which submitted modern society to the sharpest probing and criticism it had yet received. These satires of Ibsen raised a clatter of indignation and protest amongst the critics of Christiania, but Ibsen was not then a power in the land like Björnson, and the "grey old farmer" from Gudbrandsdale under the leading of doctrinaire Radicals continued to walk complacently on his path of disruption, or his successor whoever he was, for Ole Haagenstad had long retired from the Storting or Norse Parliament to live, according to bönde usage then, on bacon and veal which he kept stored for ten or twenty years till it was green and black with age.\*

*The Dissolution of the Union.*

In 1892 the Norwegian Storting passed a resolution in favour of separate consulates from those of Sweden, a measure which Swedish opposition however delayed for twelve years. The flag question had been a sore one from the beginning. In 1844 Norway had her own war-flag substituted for Sweden's, though with the union mark upon it, an event celebrated as the freeing of the flag in Christian Monsen's glowing lyric: "Now the sailor's heart beats with redoubled vigour! How oft he

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\*See Vinje's *Ferdaminni*. The bönde-idealism was subsiding with further experience, and Vinje's ironic picture of old Gudbrandsvale rather takes the halo off him.