

clashing incessantly, as did England and France up to the close of the Napoleonic era. Although the Finns have neither race nor language in common with the Swedes, Finland had never been a mere colony to Sweden. It was an integral part of Sweden, bound to her by innumerable ties. And to this day there remains in Finland a Swedish-speaking population of about 250,000. Neither the long, hopeless struggle against the unrelenting Russian advance, nor the sense of responsibility toward the Finnish people, has ever been forgotten by the Swedes. The union with Norway, achieved by Bernadotte in 1814, was meant as a compensation for the loss of Finland. In one sense it was; in another sense it was not. Through many decades that union undoubtedly meant Swedish control of Norway's military and naval resources, as well as of Norway's foreign policy, thus bringing to Sweden added power and security. But almost from the first Norway was rebellious against an arrangement which palpably foiled her aspiration at absolute self-determination. Of the details or merits of that long family quarrel we shall not have to speak here. Suffice it to say that, in spite of all quarrelling—and foolishly, perhaps—Sweden clung to the idea of the union as a guarantee against any aggression from a third party. And it was only when the union broke in 1905 that Sweden seemed to become aware of the full extent and significance of the Russian menace. Behind this realization, warranted or not, lay undoubtedly a fear that Norway might play into the hands of Russia.

Whether the Russian menace to Sweden has ever existed cannot and need not be decided here. The probability is that it has been exaggerated by the Swedes and under-estimated by the rest of the world.