

to make peace, it would be well if England took steps to ensure to Sweden as well as to Norway and Denmark the neutral independence which to them means life itself. The treaty of 1855, making England and France joint guarantors of Swedish and Norwegian independence and integrity, was abrogated in 1908, because Sweden and Norway considered it injurious to their prestige. It might, however, be wise if they now accepted some similar agreement which should take into account the numerous changes that have occurred since the old treaty was signed. It would also be well, I think, if England could depart from her customary policy of proud indifference—to the extent of really trying to win the friendships of the Scandinavian nations. No one is stronger than he who can learn from his enemies. And England has much to learn from Germany. Those Scandinavian countries possess things that England needs, and will need more and more. They belong naturally to the Anglo-Saxon group—with Great Britain, the United States, and the British Colonies—rather than with Germany. So little will be needed to win them: nothing but an open declaration of intentions, a firm support of principles that have long been dear to the English mind, and some genuine interest in the life, culture, and aspirations of the three nations that have lately brought mankind gifts out of all proportion to their own numerical or political importance.