

valuable as a German province that I think its conquest would long ago have been made one of the main German objectives but for England. Denmark fears Germany, of course, and fears her more than any other Power. But that fear is mixed with hatred, too—a hatred that has lost very little of its intensity by the passing of fifty years since the Duchies of Sleswick and Holstein were taken by Germany. Racially and linguistically one of those provinces, Holstein, had always been German and could be rightly claimed by a united Germany. The southern part of Sleswick had and has a mixed population, with the German element in ascendancy. Northern Sleswick was, and practically is still, as Danish as the island of Fünen. Had Germany been content to take Holstein and the German districts of Sleswick, the rancour caused by that seizure might not have been of long duration. But Germany took the whole of Sleswick ; and what has been done during the last fifty years to uproot all traces of Danish nationality within that province goes far beyond anything done by the Russians in Poland and Finland, or by the Austrians in their Slavonic and Italian provinces. And however willing Denmark might have been to forget, the sufferings inflicted—and inflicted in vain—on the Danes of Sleswick have prevented it from doing so.

Though Denmark has always been akin to Germany in civilization, and though the economical community of interest between the two countries has been steadily increasing, the prevailing Danish attitude toward Germans remains distrustful to the verge of open hostility. For a long period of years the political life of Denmark was coloured and warped by the struggle between conflicting opinions as to what could and should be done to protect the badly exposed capital against the menace