

The Blow to Scandinavianism.

In 1844 Norway demanded and got its own war-flag, still with the union mark. In 1857 Norway rejected the proposal for a common judiciary and a year or two later passed a resolution abolishing the stadtholdership, an office which did something to connect the two governments. Sweden, of course, was disappointed and irritated, and some hot-heads in the Swedish parliament began to babble in the usual way: "What was this Norway but an insignificant little country," etc. etc. And Björnson of course to reply in the shape of fiery national songs which made the babble immortal and burned it into every young Norse heart:

Hast thou heard what Sweden's saying
O young Norwegian man?

It was an unceasing progression in the direction of separation without any new principle of unity being introduced. In 1863 the first consequences of these constitutional controversies, breeding doubt and discord, came like a thunderclap. Bismarck taking advantage of this Scandinavian discord, with his usual sagacity swooped down on Schleswig-Holstein, overwhelmed the Danish resistance and secured, eventually, the whole of the double province for Prussia. The northern part of it had been Danish, "land of the Norsemen" in the days of Charlemagne. The little country of Denmark had lost a third of its territory at a blow. It was another Scandinavian tragedy, and they all, Danes, Norsemen and Swedes, felt it as such. In Norway, as well as in Denmark, there was bitter wailing, even amongst the Norsk enthusiasts who for years back had been carrying on a literary campaign against Danish influences in literature, in language, in the theatre, etc. Now they were angry because a parliament of farmers, whom they had never taught better, had neglected military preparation and hesitated to tax themselves for a war on behalf of Denmark. The Swedes, too, the chief military power of Scandinavia, had been chilled by the separatist Norse policy. Now, when it was too late, Björnson called loudly in new songs on Sweden to lead the united might of the North forth against Germany. The old blue and yellow of dear Sweden shall be