

seized the dictatorship. "Let us do it over again, we Radicals," he concluded. "If you, my friend, will call down the Deluge, I will with pleasure place a torpedo under the Ark." I remember to this day the look of surprise with which he received the allusion. In that look lay the germ of his next play, *An Enemy of the People*—it was Dr. Stockmann's surprise on finding that his demonstration of the rottenness of society was regarded by society as something less than a cause for unmixed gratitude. Strange as it may seem, Ibsen had not been prepared for the tempest which *Ghosts* was arousing. In a few days more the club-room was littered with papers in which critics scoffed at him as a "pale Ghost of his former self," and poets bewailed him as "A Fallen Star." George Brandes, I remember, was almost the only Scandinavian critic who preserved his sanity and his courage.

A week later, on New Year's Eve, there was again a "festa" at the Scandinavian Club. A tall, lanky, and very bald Dane, speaking in a shrill voice with a strong Copenhagen accent (unpleasing to the Norwegian ear) made himself very prominent throughout the evening, acting as a sort of self-appointed Master of the Ceremonies. Towards midnight, after the ladies had left, the President and Secretary of the club, Ibsen, one or two other men and I sat round a table in one of the smaller rooms chatting, when this Dane came in, and began talking and laughing very loudly. Ibsen visibly fumed for several minutes, until the Dane addressed to the President some question which I did not catch. Then Ibsen turned upon him, his eyes blazing, and thundered, "What have you to do with that? That is a matter for the Committee." "I merely asked the question," the Dane replied, and went on talking at a great rate. Ibsen rose, muttered something very audibly about an "intolerable person!" and left the room. The party immediately broke up; and as we were putting on our coats in the hall, I heard Ibsen, in saying good-night to the Secretary, quote some derogatory epithet from Holberg, and apply it to "den skallede, væmmelige