

identical with that of Holland and Belgium, which countries, although separated by much greater racial distinctions, are constantly made to feel that the independence of one is essential to the independence of the other.

All this I grant, and the truth of it is more and more being brought home to those whom it principally concerns. In fact, I hope that one of the good results produced by the present upheaval will be to make the Scandinavians fix their gaze on what they have in common rather than on their differences. But, to understand the bearing of the great war on their countries, it is absolutely necessary to keep in mind that they still think and speak and act as Swedes, Norwegians, or Danes, and not primarily as Scandinavians. All of them are just now seriously agitated by hopes as well as fears; but their hopes and fears are not identical except in one point—that they are above all desirous of preserving their national integrity and independence. To make clear the distinctions modifying that common, general desire, I shall consider the three nations separately in their relation to the present crisis, as well as to the new international situation likely to spring from it.

Geographically Denmark belongs to the Continent rather than to the Scandinavian peninsula. But for racial differences it would form a logical part of the German Empire. And to Germany the advantages of such a union would be tremendous. It would turn the Baltic into a German lake, and multiply the chances for a bold stroke at England. It would give Germany the sailors she so badly needs. At the same time it would make it harder than ever for Sweden and Norway to maintain a complete independence, even if they were never openly attacked. In fact, Denmark would be so