

language of daily life was not altogether an infallible test of political sympathies. This was particularly the case in Central Sleswick, where the population had either lost all interest in Danish nationality or were in favour of an independent 'Schleswig-Holstein' which should be included in the German Confederation. The principal town of Central Sleswick was Flensburg; in 1864 the inhabitants were on the whole German-speaking—a state of things which has changed in the past fifty years—and yet were Danish in their sympathies. The exact opposite was the case with Tönder, a town in the west of Central Sleswick.

Flensburg and Tönder are connected by a railway, and it is to the north of this line that the present Danish population of Sleswick, numbering about 150,000 souls, is concentrated. It is Danish not only in the sense that it speaks the Danish language; its members regard themselves as compatriots of the Danes of Denmark. The frontier which was drawn between Denmark and the Duchies in 1864 is an unnatural frontier. It does not correspond to the distribution of the Danish and German nationalities.

These expatriated Danes are largely yeoman farmers; but there are also the tradesmen and the artisans of the small towns of Haderslev, Aabenraa, and Sønderborg. The whole population holds its own in the face of opponents who have steadily become more powerful, and of a calculated policy of oppression which is now far more severe than it was fifty years ago. Prussia vanquished Denmark after a campaign of some four months. But the battle against Danish nationalism in Sleswick has been proceeding from that time to the present; and in this battle the aggressors are further off from victory than they ever were.