

from the Christian Faith. But the authorities were deaf to all complaints; their true reason was once given by a clergyman in an elevated position, who made the following reply: 'Certainly, it is a pity; but even if the present generation goes to ruin, what matters, if following generations are lifted up into the higher sphere of true Teutonism?' To be Germanized was so great a benefit in his eyes, that it could not be paid for too dearly. In many districts the only means by which Christian Danes could procure intelligible religious instruction was the forming of independent congregations and the building of new churches, but these proceedings were met by the authorities with all sorts of chicanery: every pretext was made use of to prevent the population from utilizing their own churches; the first was closed by the police, and legal proceedings had to be carried on for three years, before it could be opened; afterwards the use of church bells was forbidden, the validity of ministerial acts was denied, &c., &c.

What, however, violates and hurts the population most, is that the German language has been gradually introduced in the schools, in such a way that now—since 1888—[even in purely Danish districts] there are only a couple of hours weekly instruction in religion in the Danish mother-tongue;¹ it is made impossible to establish Danish schools and even to keep Danish teachers in the homes; in this manner the Government does all that it can to root out the language of the population. What a goal to set before itself for a people that claims to be a Christian people and a people of culture!²

Add to this that the use of the Danish language in public meetings is prohibited in all districts where both

¹ By Governmental circular of November 29, 1883.

² From J. Andersen: *South Jutland under Prussian Rule*.