

related further on—which continues to cause anxiety to the Norwegians, in spite of the practically perfect guarantee furnished by the understanding between the sister nations. And this is just the point where the futility of the German intrigues shows itself. In spite of the North Cape excursions of the German Emperor, in spite of the glowing Pan-Germanism of the late Björnstjerne Björnson (whose ideas I do not mean to belittle by this reference), and in spite of the employment of Björn Björnson as the Emperor's principal Scandinavian press agent, the Norwegians do not trust the Germans very much. Perhaps a reason for this anomalous and ungrateful attitude on their part may be furnished by what happened at the time when Norway, after the separation from Sweden, was preparing to start a completely new Government of its own. The democratic and republican tendencies of the country are too well known to need mention. Yet a Monarchical Government was decided on; and it is pretty well understood that this concession was the price paid for Germany's acceptance of the new state of affairs.

Be this as it may, the fact remains that the Norwegians find it hard to believe that Germany may not force Sweden into the fight after all. The silver lining to this cloud—though it may not appear as such to Englishmen for the time being—is that the Norwegians seem to take it for granted they must fight on the same side as the Swedes. I think this feeling on their part bodes well not only for the future but for the present, as it will go far toward quieting the Swedes. The sum and substance of all this is that the Norwegians do not want to fight anybody, and that they would be particularly chagrined at having to fight for Germany against the