

to do so, has proved himself a mere doctrinaire."

Of course the Swedish papers are enthusiastic over the King's message to the Storting as shown by the following extracts:

"The letter of the King is so calm in language that everyone must admire in astonishment the self control which the writer exhibits. The fact that such a letter has come before the Storting clearly shows that a way is open not only for a personal union between the two countries, but also for the succession of a young Bernadotte to the Swedish throne."

"King Oscar takes a firm stand on the ground of right and truth. Revolutions have their justification, when a people's rights are threatened or denied or when oppression crushes the subjects of a throne. But a king is never to be deposed when he is merely maintaining his position on the basis of constitutional enactment or takes a step which he believes to be his duty to do as a ruler."

"As regards ourselves and in view of the final verdict of Europe, the King's sound and logical presentation of the Norwegian imbroglio, if considered aright, is a statement which deserves the most careful consideration."

Of course, the Norwegian press do not agree with the Swedish view. The *Aftenposten*, Christiania, intimates, in its criticism of King Oscar's letter, that that monarch's conception of the Union and of his own constitutional right and du-

ties is unjust and, as well as quite irreconcilable with what constitutes national independence and constitutional prosperity. The King has not uttered a single word in answer to the Storting's request for his cooperation in the election of a new King.

In predicting the ultimate outcome of the Swedish-Norwegian dispute, the most difficult part of the problem is to decide on the future action of the Swedish irconcilables. According to the Stockholm correspondent of the London Times, Sweden is at present divided. The writer says:

"The general tone all over is against military measures or any attempt to coerce Norway back into the Union, but opinion is by no means as unanimous in favor of a prompt and amicable settlement with Norway, wiping out old scores and making a slate in view of drawing up conditions of the future. An adverse current is setting in from different directions prompted by a variety of feelings, such as loyalty to the King, indignation at the way he has been treated, and distrust of the Norwegian democracy and its uncompromising thoroughness."

Recent despatches say that these "adverse currents" are setting in the direction of war, although the Norwegian poet, Jonas Lie, in a Copenhagen paper says: "I believe that most Norwegians feel as I do—we wish for no war, we wish for peace."

