

spelling-books and almanacs ; let it be preached from pulpits and proclaimed in legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice ; in short, let it become the religion of the nations."

These are not the words of an idealist, and the attempt of the teacher to carry out his part would not be vain. What high responsibility they put upon him, and how immeasurably they ennoble a calling whose routine and petty detail often beget despondency ! This purpose encourages ever more faithful work at

the humbler tasks, but demands that they be made primarily the means for securing the nobler ends. Teach history, mathematics, sciences and languages, but make them help inspire that true liberty which consists in willing obedience to authority, and opens the way to the larger life of devotion to duty.

Experience joined with common sense,

To mortals is a providence.

—*Green.*

THE SCANDINAVIANS IN AMERICAN LIFE.

KENDRICK CHARLES BABCOCK

OF the 11,500,000 direct living descendants of the Vikings, 2,500,000, more than one-fifth, reside in the United States,—born of Scandinavian parents, either in Europe or in America. Few provinces of Denmark, Sweden, or Norway contain so many Scandinavians as the 375,000 who make up one-fourth of the population of Minnesota. Wisconsin and Illinois have each 200,000. Iowa, Nebraska, and the two Dakotas have the larger part of the remainder. It is a suggestive fact that so large a proportion of the Scandinavians are settled in the distinctively agricultural States. The most reliable figures obtainable indicate that, of the Scandinavians, one out of four engages in agriculture ; of the Germans, one out of seven ; of the Irish, only one out of twelve. The immigrants have come from all grades of society and from all parts of the three countries.

The term "Scandinavian" is convenient, but at best only broadly generic. We all know that there is no Scandinavian language, no Scandinavian nation, but we do not so

well realize that Sweden and Denmark have different languages, governments, and traditions. The typical Swede is aristocratic, assertive, fond of dignities ; he is polite, vivacious, bound to have a good time, without any far look into the future. Yet he is persistent, and capable of great energy and endurance. The typical Norwegian is, above all, democratic. He is simple, severe, intense, often radical and visionary. There lies an unknown quantity of passion in him, a capacity for high, even turbulent endeavor, but rarely the qualities of a great leader. The Dane is the Southerner of the Scandinavians, though still a conservative ; gay, but not to excess. He is preëminently a small farmer or a trader, ready and easy-going, not given to great risks, but quick to see a bargain, and shrewd in making it. Judged by American standards, these northern folk are slow, often immoderately slow. All three peoples, down to the stolidest laborer, mountaineer, or fisherman, are industrious and frugal.