

FAR AWAY NORSEMEN.

AN INTERESTING CONTRIBUTION ON
AFFAIRS IN NORWAY.

History Summarized From Early Times to
the Present Date.—One Long Struggle
for Independence.—Dissatisfaction with
Present Political Conditions.

(Written for THE DISPATCH.)

In looking over the columns of your paper of Aug. 8th I noticed an article entitled, "Election in Norway" and by reading it thoroughly I found that something more than usual might be expected from that quiet and distant part of the world. I saw with some surprise that Oscar II, King of Sweden and Norway, had hatched a plot to rob the latter country of its constitutional right and freedom. Whether this be true in all respects or not will no doubt soon be revealed, and we are loath to believe such possible of a good and noble sovereign who had been universally loved by the Norwegians despite his refusal to give them separate recognition at foreign courts. Norway though comparatively little known to Canadian people, has always given strong proofs of its love of liberty and though it never was destined to take a very conspicuous place among the nations on whom the destiny of Europe seems to hang; yet its history shows that through centuries past it defended itself nobly against its powerful neighbor by whom it was in reality never conquered. If you will kindly allow me space I will give a part of its history, in brief, which may be of some interest to the readers of your valuable paper.

In order to get at the beginning of the bitter national hatred between Norway and Sweden (though somewhat abated in latter years) we must go back to the union of Calmar, 1397, by which Norway and Sweden were peacefully united to Denmark, under Queen Margaret. But the Swedes soon revolted and were able to secure their independence after a hard struggle, from the Danish king, Christian II., who in that country earned for himself the title of Christian the Tyrant, 1527. But Norway, who had more in common with Denmark, both in race and language, remained loyal, for which it was often but ill repaid. Mutual jealousy soon brought on a destructive war between Christian's son, Frederic II., and the Swedish king, Eric XVI., in 1559, which lasted for seven years, and was in reality the starting point to this unnatural hatred. A Swedish army entered Norway, burning and plundering unmercifully, and with scarcely any resistance, as most of the soldiers were down in Denmark helping to defend that country. At last the Danish governor, Eric Rosencrantz, took heart and called upon the inhabitants to defend themselves. The call was stringent. Every messenger carried a rope, that whosoever did not readily respond would be hung at his own door. By this means seven vessels were fitted out from Bergen, then one of the richest trading places in the north, and on which the Swedes had contemplated making a raid. The enemy's ships, 15 in number, were encountered north of Bergen, and utterly defeated. Then Rosencrantz sent help inland where the Swedes were surprised in a place where they thought themselves secure, and for seven hours suffered misery, and buried their dead so the Norsemen would not know how great was their loss. Under Frederic's successor, Christian IV., 1588, war was again waged with Sweden under the great Gustavus Adolphus. One feature of this war, which was mostly carried on in Southern Sweden, can only be related here. Nine hundred Scotch Highlanders, in Swedish pay, under Col. Geo. Sinclair, set out from Cuthness, in the north of Scotland, and landed in Veblungnaess, in Rosmdal, on the coast of Norway. The light of the burning houses and the shrieks of the murdered women and children resounded through the whole valley of the Laagen, through which they intended to march, and brought to quick action the sturdy peasants of the neighboring counties. Under their brave leaders, Peter Hage, Lars Gram and Berdou Sjelstad, they met the Scotchmen at the Pass of Kringen, in Gubrandsdal, and rolling great stones and timbers down on them from the overhanging cliffs, like the Swiss at Sempach, completely defeated them. Sinclair was shot by Sjelstad with a silver button as he was thought to bear a charmed life. Not a Scot escaped.

Under Frederic III., 1648, Norway again had to bear its burden under a war lasting three years with Sweden, under the warlike Charles IX. Denmark allied itself with the Dutch and Imperialists to divide the Swedish dominion in Germany, while he was absent from Sweden in Poland. But Charles soon overran Denmark, whom he compelled to sue for a degrading peace, Roeskild, 1658. Norway had to surrender the provinces of Akershus and Thronhjelm, which were garrisoned by Swedish troops. The noted Friederickshall here sustained one of its first sieges, September 13 and 14, 1658, when 250 Norse militiamen withstood 1600 Swedes under General Harrold Stake. But the Swedish king soon broke the truce and surrounded Copenhagen both on sea and land. A Dutch fleet under Van Opdam came to the rescue

and defeated the famous Wrangel at the battle of Sound, October 23, 1658. The Swedes were again unsuccessful at Frederickshall, November 4, 1659, and again in 1660, when 9000 men under the well known Gustavus Von Horn met with a loss of 1000 dead and wounded after a siege of six weeks, January 13-23. The Swedes were again driven out of the conquered territory and peace restored.

But Frederic's successor, Christian V., again was involved with Sweden under its King Charles XI. By France's crafty diplomacy Sweden was induced to attack its old enemy, the "Great Elector of Brandenburg and the Dutch and Imperialists who were allied with him against the French got Denmark on their side, this was one of the most brilliant campaigns in the north. The Norwegians signalized themselves by taking the strong city of Marstrand, north of Gothenburg, under their Viceroy Count Guldenlowe, July 28, 1677, and again at Uddevalla in Sweden, Aug. 28, when the dashing Lowenhelm with scarcely 3,000 men attacked and routed 8,000 Swedes under their Prime Minister Magnus de lu Garlie. The Norwegian sailors also shared in the great naval victories of this war, when the Dutch and Danish fleet under Van Tromp and Juell defeated the Swedish Admiral Creutz under Oland, June 11, 1676, the Swedish loosing 7 ships and 3,000 men, and again under the Island of Moen, July 1, 1677, where Admiral Juell with 25 sail defeated the Swedish of 36 under Admiral Ewart Horn, who lost on that bloody day 12 ships, 73 officers and 4,000 men. The war was settled at Lund, Scania, 1679, with but meagre recompense to Norway for its bravery in this campaign.

But under Frederic IV., war again was begun with Sweden under the young King Charles XII, 1697, Denmark in conjunction with Russia and Poland after Charles' defeat at Pultowa, 1709, attacked this unruly sovereign with a view to regain some lost territory but the "Lion King" speedily compelled Frederic to make peace. Norway again had to take its share. When Charles little by little lost his hold upon Denmark he resolved at all hazards to conquer Norway. In the dead of winter, 1712, he sent General Armfelt with 5,000 men northwards to take Thronhjelm, whilst himself with 10,000 marched to conquer Southern Norway. Fredericshall was again besieged and he made himself master of Christiania but could not take the strong Port of Akershus. From here he sent out detachments to subdue the surrounding country. The Norwegian army, small in itself, was divided into small campaigners to guard the extensive range of attack. 200 dragoons under Colonel Bruggeman were surprised, but this set Colonel Ulrich Christian Kruse on his watch, who with only 200 dragoons met Chartes in a desperate encounter at Holand. After a heroic combat Kruse was wounded and taken prisoner; but not before he had killed 17 Swedes with his own hand and wounded Charles, brother-in-law of the Prince of Hesse. He then set down before Akershus which he expected to take as soon as his Transport fleet arrived with guns and ammunition. But he was miserably deceived as his fleet under Admiral Stromstjerna was totally destroyed by the Norwegian Admiral, Tordensjold, in Duncik, north of Gothenborg. Charles then retreated toward Sweden making a last attempt to subdue Fredericshall and it was under this siege a bullet from the forts crashed through the brain of this turbulent monarch as he was inspecting the work in the trenches, 1718. But Armfelt suffered still more horribly. Under blinding snow storms he got lost on the wild and dreary Tydals mountains. Hunger and the severe cold benumbed the soldiers who were unable to continue their march. They camped by a lone lake on this dreary mountain, and to keep themselves warm were compelled to stand back to back and burn the stocks of their muskets. When they at last reached Swedish ground 3,000 had frozen to death and the most of the survivors were made cripples for life.

Under Christian VI., 1730, the united kingdoms experienced a wholesome peace, and also under King Frederic V., 1746. But Christian VII., 1768, by joining the armed neutrality excited the resentment of Great Britain, who sent a strong fleet under Parker and the famous Nelson, to Copenhagen. The Danish-Noawegian sailors displayed great bravery on that terrible day, April 2, 1801, and wrung from the British admiral the acknowledgment that in all his battles he never met such resistance.

Denmark by siding with Napoleon, again came to war with England, who sent an army and fleet under Cathcart and Gambier to Copenhagen, 1807, who captured the whole Danish fleet. Norway was invaded by the Swedes, but in 1808 the Norwegians administered to them a signal defeat at Traengen Pass, north of Christiania, under their beloved leader, Prince Christian August, of Augustenborg. Denmark, by the loss of her navy, and other reverses, was obliged to abstain from helping Napoleon I., and the king, Frederic VI., was obliged to renounce for himself the possession of Norway, 1813. This country was in a deplorable condition. By the steady contribution of troops and

money to Denmark, Norway was taxed to its utmost and the terrible winter of 1812 doubled the misery. British cruisers cut off all communication with Denmark, and many a story is told of the hardy dwellers on the coast who, in face of imminent danger, ventured across the Skagerak in open boats to bring home the necessary provisions for their starving families. Many such a adventurer being seen by the watchful enemy rather perished in the breakers than fall into English captivity. But the spirit of the people never flagged a moment. Norway declared itself independent, and a constitutional law was given on Eidswoold, May 17, 1814.

As General, was chosen Crown Prince Frederic (later Frederic VI.) of Denmark. But it was decreed by the great powers that Norway should be given to Sweden as a recompense for its alliance in the war of Napoleon. The English redoubled their vigilance and Prince Bernadotte, chosen king of Sweden, marched against Norway with 24,000 picked troops, amply supplied and fresh from the victories at Leipsic. All that could be opposed to them were 15,000 poorly armed and starving soldiers, who were distributed along the line in the most exposed places. In the spring of 1814, the attack was begun by Bernadotte sending Major General Gahn with 3,000 men to drive the Norwegians back from Kongsving, whilst he himself marched against Christiania. Kongsing was the headquarters of 1,000 men under Colonel Krebs, who, hearing of the Swedes intent, instantly marched to meet him, and at Leer, some miles north of Kongsing, compelled him to retreat, and following up his success surprised and routed him at Matrand Bridge (Aug. 2, 1814.) Some skirmishes took place in the south but Frederikstad having surrendered without resistance, Frederikstad also gave in after three days severe bombardment. The Norwegians wanted to risk all on one single battle, but were not allowed. A convention then took place in Moss between the fighting parties by which Norway agreed to become allied to Sweden by retaining her national laws, 1815. Bernadotte became King and did much to lessen the bitterness between the two countries. Under his son Oscar I., 1844, Norway bravely maintained her right to a separate flag which she at last gained. But the refusal of Sweden to give Norway separate consulate in foreign lands beside several other privileges denied them has kept the old sores open. Such is this little country's history and though the separation of the two countries would perhaps be detrimental to their own protection against foreign invaders, yet the sympathy would undoubtedly be with a brave and high spirited people who are striving to maintain their dearly bought rights and liberties. A. E. N.

The Habit of Satire.

To cultivate a habit of always seeing the awkward or ridiculous aspect of things is unwise. Cynical remarks can be passed respecting all men and all happenings. Life is nothing but dregs and lees to one who educates himself out of the possibility of admiring, praising or wondering. It is a mournful routine with the man whose blood does not sometimes boil with honest indignation. If the habitual sneer is not occasionally chased away by a square smile or a broad grin, then life is sad, indeed. If you are settled down in a rut of insipid bitterness with no vision of the good, the true or the beautiful, it is time to travel. Go to the world's cataract at Niagara and see if your eye will not brighten at the stupendous master stroke of nature there exhibited. Staid in the presence of heroism and test whether your jaded nerves will not thrill and tingle with admiration. Visit the great gala occasions of nations when all that is grand and imposing in the resources of power, wealth and splendor is displayed, and try if you cannot observe and wonder.

The habitual satirist tears down, but never builds up. He spins no meshes of thought which bind the facts into a fabric of useful and helpful experience. His words are disparagement, chill and discouragement. Effort palls, hope dies and purposes wane under the jaundiced notice that he takes. Say a good word. Utter a timely suggestion. Bestow praise where it will bias to the right. Cheer honest effort. Overlook the flaws, and let the main aspect alone attract your attention. Then the path of your influence will be marked by certain results, where, with the habit of satire, your path would be strewn with wrecks and abandoned efforts begun in faith and deserted in cynicism.—*Milwaukee Catholic Citizen.*

If we can accept the statements of reporters, Edison now claims that sleep is a habit due to the succession of night and day, and that with sufficient fortitude any man can overcome it. If he is correctly reported his physician should impart a word of advice to him before it is too late. No one has yet done very long with a stinted supply of sleep without landing in the graveyard or the madhouse. Sleep is the rest of a tired nervous system and the time of its recuperation. When men cannot sleep they become insane.—*Popular Science News.*

There are American ladies who have more valuable lace than any European potentate. The laces of the Astor family are valued at \$300,000, those of the Vanderbilts at \$500,000. More lace, it is said, is bought in New York than any other city in the world. The Pope's lace treasures are said to be worth \$875,000, those of the Queen of England \$375,000 and those of the Princess of Wales \$250,000. The Queen's wedding dress was trimmed with a peice of Honiton costing \$5,000.

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