

The North and The North-man

The coronation of King Haakon VII, in the old of Trondhjem, replaces a nation upon the of Europe. For the first time in history, only one partial exception, national independ- has been achieved without bloodshed and way and Sweden are entitled to the gratitude humanity.

It is interesting and suggestive to note that the "Eldest Sons of Woden," the "war lords" of the days, should be the first to give such an lesson to the world. The average reader, who has absorbed in later and superficially greater study, has, until now, failed to give to these the study they deserve; nor has he real- ized how great their influence has been, not only in making history, but in forming the character of every Indo-European race. It is well, therefore, that popular attention should have been attracted to the three northern kingdoms of Norway, Swe- den and Denmark.

Let us picture to ourselves the winter of Northern Europe, and days scarcely less when a somber sky bends low above a of ice and rock and wave; while the mad winds and waters, driving sleet, or snow swift, silent, inexorable as destiny fills all space between. Let us try to realize amid natural conditions primitive man's struggle for existence. So only can we comprehend the life of Scandinavia—that realm from which came—naturally as avalanches thunder their mountains—storm cradled warriors— heirs of Roman tyranny, heirs of Roman law; creators of ancient, the creators of modern civilization. So only can we comprehend the gods, vast, vague as fogbanks around a coast, or war songs, where sounds the of lightning through the pines, the plunge of a mass in the sea; the rush of warships in the waters.

Scandinavia every royal, every patrician in Europe, is proud to trace ancestry, but less in her "things" or popular assemblies find the germ of modern representative governments. The republics of Greece or of Italy were in reality the most intolerant of oligarchies. There is more personal freedom in Athens today than there was in Sparta under Leonidas or in Venice when Dandolo pre- sided. To the north we owe personal liberty and equality. These and the tenure to almost all foot of ground in the civilized world rest upon the Scandinavian who best respects for the rights of war—from strife to law.

In the eighth to the twelfth century, Scandi- navia to Europe conquerors and law-makers, were unjust to confine attention to these of desolation, though generating struggles. In winter passes and rich the life snow has melted; pure the water from ice; genial the forests; with clearest, steadiest luster the polar stars.

In the twelfth to the sixteenth century, leav- ing history to be largely influenced by its offshoot, the parent race exerted little foreign influence. Norway, Sweden and Denmark were absorbed in their own stormy life. Early in the fifteenth century, Olaf of Denmark, dying childless, his sister inherited his throne and by her marriage united it to Sweden's. Eighty years later, Margaret of Denmark, who participated in the ceremony of his coronation, signed the treaty of union of Calmar, which practically gave to the Dane Sweden and Norway.

After Margaret's death her successors were so much distracted by domestic troubles in Sweden successfully, until Christian II, the Danish throne and asserted his independence. The Swedish regent fell, defending the independence of his country, the Swedish army defeated and Sweden was the Dane's by treaty and fraud, fair words and ruthless deeds, and by the wronged and forgiving lord, that he invited the entire nobility of the realm and cities of Germany turned in de- fiance his oath, when, after receiving the news, he swore to uphold the Swedish con- stitution and to take no vengeance for the past. Three November days the streets of Stock- holm were gay with mirth and music, while in the Christian with gracious courtesy and frank- ness entertained the nobility. In the evening the feasting the gates were suddenly closed by Danish soldiers rushing from their hiding places and surrounded the palace and guarded every entrance. With scarcely a pretense of trial, the admiring guests of the new-crowned king were hurried to execution; and in one day a part of the Swedish nobility was ef- fectually destroyed. Christian, however, had reckoned wrongly. Thus strove to secure his conquered throne in the north no throne rests firm upon a base nor is long secured by terror, and one,

at least, of the highest born had escaped the Stockholm shambles.

Gustavus Ericsson of the princely house of Vasa had learned prudence in a bitter school. He was one of the sixteen hostages whom, two years before, in defiance of public faith and private honor, Christian had thrown, loaded with chains into a Danish dungeon. Many times during the year of misery which followed, royal mes- sengers had descended to that dungeon to offer Gustavus, who was scarcely 17, freedom, wealth and honor in their master's service; and as vainly to threaten continued defiance with torture and death. With almost incredible endurance, deter- mination and address Gustavus maintained his health and strength through all the horrors of that imprisonment, and at length effected his es- cape. He was in hiding when Christian's gener- ous amnesty, gracious invitation was published far and wide. Mistrusting the mercy, scorning the grace, he did not attend the coronation, and thus escaped the massacre in which his father

and kinsmen fell. The year that followed, with its dangers, suffering, hairbreadth escapes, ap- pears a romance or epic.

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.

Cynthia Ann Parker

Her two sons did not fall in the battle of Pease river. Several years afterward one died on the great plains of Texas. The other son lived to be- come the famous Comanche chief—Quanah Par- ker.

He was born in Wichita Falls in 1854. He rules his people on their reservation in the Indian Ter- ritory. He speaks the English tongue, is quite advanced in civilization, and owns a well-stocked ranch. Thus ends the tragic story of a stolen girl who made the circuit of the savage west, died an alien among her own, longed for the wild freedom of the estacadoes, and dreamed of an Indian-lover brave enough to sing his death- song.

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