

CHAPTER XIII

POLAR EUROPE

EXPLOITATION of arctic lands in extreme Northern Europe has continued, though irregularly, despite economic and political disturbances; it demands brief consideration. European Russia is considered in connection with its great outlying archipelago, Novaya Zemlya, in Chapter XV.

POLAR NORWAY

The history of the Scandinavian people is of deep interest to all who honor men moved by a spirit of adventure and endowed with resolute courage to face and conquer adverse conditions of nature. Rarely has any race equalled and none surpassed this folk along these lines. Through the past five hundred years their changes in life-methods have been slow and conservative, since Magnus Olaus in his "History of the Northern Nations", Rome, 1554, picturesquely outlined them.

Confined to a narrow region, nowhere exceeding two hundred fifty miles in width, Norway faces tempestuous seas, bordering the arctic circle. Its people have prospered on wealth wrested from the ocean, rather than on the productions of an unfriendly soil.