

When the consultative assemblies were created for Denmark in 1834, it was ordered that Iceland should send two representatives to the assembly for the Danish islands convened at Roskilde. But this arrangement did not satisfy the Icelanders who demanded their own national assembly; and in answer to these demands the King, in 1838, created a commission of 10 royal officials who were to assemble in Reykjavík every two years to examine Icelandic affairs and make suggestions to the government; and later, in 1843, a consultative body for Iceland was created and called Althingi.

By the Danish constitution act of 1849 the king renounced his absolute power in Denmark. But as this constitution did not include Iceland, the king retained his absolute power there. Then the Icelanders began their *struggle for independence* under the leadership of Jón Sigurðsson. This struggle was twofold: a struggle for the recognition of Iceland's independence of Denmark, and a struggle for a liberal constitution. When this controversy had lasted for 20 years, a bill was passed by the Danish Rigsdag, and ratified by the king (on Jan. 2nd 1871), defining the position of Iceland within the realm. This law was never submitted to Althingi for approbation, which consequently denied the validity of the act. — According to this law Iceland was an integral part of the Danish realm, with autonomous power in matters of local concern. In the so-called common affairs of the realm Iceland was to have no voice. On Jan. 5th 1874, the king, without consulting Althingi, issued a constitution for Iceland based on the law of 1871 and dealing with its local concerns, granting legislative power to Althingi conjointly with the king in the country's local concerns. The same year a special ministry for Iceland was created in Copenhagen, at the head of which was placed the Danish Minister of Justice. The constitutional struggle was soon renewed, and in 1903 modifications in the constitution were granted, providing, among other things of less importance, a minister for Iceland residing in Reykjavík and capable of speaking and writing the Icelandic language. But this did not put an end to the controversy, and in 1907 the king appointed a commission consisting of Danes and Icelanders to draft a new agreement defining the position of Iceland in the realm. But the draft, submitted by the majority of the commission in 1908, was not passed by Althingi. At last, in 1918, a new commission consisting of Icelanders and Danes was appointed to settle the relations between the two countries. The delegates met in Reykjavík, where the negotiations, begun on the 1st of July, ended on the 17th of the same month by