

II. MOTHER-LAND AND PEOPLES

Ex hac igitur Scandza insula quasi officina gentium aut certe velut vagina nationum . . . quondam memorantur egressi.—
JORDANIS, *De Get.*, cap. 4.

EVER since we have any historic record of its existence, we are told by successive historians and poets how the Scandinavian peninsula sent forth swarm after swarm of its pure-blooded, tall, fair-haired, white-skinned children, southward over the Baltic, to seek warmer and more fertile homes. These migrations followed two main routes in early times, the *East way* and the *South way*. Over the East way went the Goths, by Wilna along the broad river-plains to Dampa-stead (as they called Kiev), around which Giberic and Ermanaric built up the first great Teutonic Empire. On the South way, by the peninsula we now call Denmark, and up the rivers that run into the North Sea, there had probably passed tribe after tribe in migrations of which we have no written record. In the fifth century a new route seems to have been struck, the *West way*, and from the beech-clad islands and sandy links of the Danish peninsula, and the broad flat pastures about the river mouths between Elbe and Rhine, there sailed westward many a ship-load of armed emigrants from the great tribal leagues, Eotish, English, and Saxon. For they had heard the news that there