

threw down the copy of the judgment which he had been perusing, and said to Friebel, the most pompous looking of the associate judges :

"Come here!" whereupon that worthy advanced to within reach of the king's bony forefinger and underwent such an examination into his knowledge of equity and right and "natural fairness," as he never afterward forgot.

"Here is a nobleman," said the King, concluding his examination, "who wishes to have a fish-pond; to get water for it, he taps the stream that runs a poor peasant's mill, so that the miller can do no business except for about four weeks in the year, and of course cannot pay his rent. Now what do the provincial courts do,—they sell the mill so that the nobleman can get his rent. Do you call this justice and fair dealing?"

"No, Sire," answered the portly Friedel.

"And yet," continued Frederick, "the Berlin Tribunal....." Here the Chancellor, piqued at the contemptuous indifference the King has so far shown him, steps forward and meekly corrects: "Not Berlin Tribunal, Your Majesty, but Kammergericht's Tribunal."

"Correct it!" says the King to his stenographer, and then turning to the Grand Chancellor, the highest legal dignitary of the kingdom, he says:—

"And you,—go you, sir, about your business, *instantan*. Your successor is appointed; I am done with you."

Which order the Chancellor obeyed with the utmost speed. The other judges were not so fortunate. He read them a mighty lecture on law and equity, all set forth in the Royal Protocol of December 11, 1779, and then clapped them in jail. Sentence was, dismissal from office, one year's confinement, and payment of compensation to the Arnolds for all losses and costs. The judges of the lower courts were then sent for, and likewise punished,—all except Cüstrin Regierungsrath Scheibler, who had dissented from the decision of his colleagues; he went free; was, in fact, promoted.

This attempt to reform law by example set all Europe talking. The Berliners took the side of the judges, thought Frederick had been too severe, and immediately upon his death the disgraced dignitaries were re-instated. But the King's protocol did its work. Catherine of Russia promulgated it as a noteworthy example of royal supreme judicature; the French people went