

a crime punishable with detention for three months in a fortress of the Empire.

Prince William was not content with the ordinary curriculum of either the gymnasium or university. He gave himself up to the mastery of the Administrative System of Prussia—added to this, a stiff course of instruction under the Minister of Finance, and sat for many months as the admiring—almost adoring—pupil of both Bismarck and Moltke.

In 1878, he visited the Queen of England, and at the same time found a wife—the Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who happened at the time to be on a visit to her uncle, Prince Christian, in London. Speaking at a banquet in Schleswig-Holstein in 1890, Kaiser William said: "The bond that unites me to this province and chains me to it in a manner different from all others of my empire is the jewel that sparkles at my side—her Majesty the Empress. Springing from this soil, the type of the various virtues of a German Princess, it is to her that I owe it, that I am able to meet the severe labours of my office with a happy spirit, and to make head against them."

But tragic scenes were near. His grandfather, now in his ninety-first year, and his father, the Crown Prince, smitten with a mysterious disease, were both hastening to the grave. The old king and his son had differed widely and radically as to what was best in the conduct of German affairs. Frederick was far too English in his notions of constitutional government for either Bismarck or Emperor William—at least so they thought; and in consequence the Crown Prince had been, as a matter of fact, one of the unemployed ever since the wars were over.

The apathy of inaction and the

continual consciousness that both he and his wife—the English Princess—were the objects of the most serious distrust, preyed upon his mind. Prince William, whose ideas and aims were entirely Bismarckian, now began a career of bustling energy which stood in marked contrast with the self-effacement of his father. So much so that the Crown Prince, speaking of himself, once said, sadly: "He who is at once the son of so great a father and the father of so gifted a son, may well be regarded as superfluous."

His disease assumed alarming symptoms. The German doctors pronounced it cancer, but it was thought well to secure the additional skill of a first-class specialist from abroad.

Dr. Morell Mackenzie, of London, was selected. Then began the proverbial "differing of the doctors," and a scene of strife and confusion most extraordinary ensued. It was a battle of science, and of politics as well. Frederick's long continued inaction and illness of body had started in his mind the thought of abdication in favour of his son, Prince William, and he had half promised that, on condition that the diagnosis of his disease betokened a fatal ending. The English doctor was suspected of playing into the hands of Frederick's wife, the English Princess, to prevent him doing this.

The young Kaiser's first proclamations were to the army and navy, on the day his father died. But he had already issued an order on that same day, as "warlord," and not half an hour after Frederick the Noble had breathed his last. The multitude of mourners around the palace were roused from their sorrowful reveries by the clatter of horses' hoofs, and on looking up, beheld a squadron of the Hussars of the Guard in their scarlet tunics, rapidly dis-