

it is with anything but a proud look or a kind voice, that William, rising, addresses them. "Henry Froebel and Theodore Kritsch" thundered the Emperor, "one of you, we know not which, is guilty of treason, guilty of selling your country's interests. The crime rests between you, that is certain; let the guilty one speak, and so not add to his already heinous crime, by dragging an innocent man to punishment with him."

"Sire," said Theodore Kritsch, "I have loved and served my country too well, all my life, to betray it in my later years."

"Sire" exclaimed Henry Froebel, "I am innocent, I swear it."

"Both innocent" mused William, "and yet one of them, we are sure, is guilty."

"Sirs," he continued aloud, "I expected a denial from both of you. Since human law cannot decide between you, let Heaven be the agent of justice. What is hidden from us is clear to God. Let Him decide. Here are dice; let each of you take one throw. Who throws highest is innocent, and lives; the other is guilty, and dies. Now make your cast, and may Heaven adjudge the guilt where it belongs."

Theodore Kritsch, relieved of his bonds, steps forward, takes the dice from the hand of the Emperor and shakes them in the box. Every head is eagerly inclined and every eye is strained to the utmost as he makes the throw. "Sixes," cry the crowd as the dice settle, "twelve is the count; Froebel is the guilty one; death to Froebel;" and the maddened crowd would have fallen on the poor unfortunate and beaten him to death then and there, had not the towering form of William rose stern and commanding. "Peace!" he cried, and the tumult was hushed. "Theodore Kritsch," continued the Emperor, "thou hast made a good throw, the highest possible, and thy innocence is well nigh established; nevertheless the other must have his throw. Froebel, thy turn has come."

"I cannot beat that cast, and yet I am innocent," and with these words he dashed the dice with such force that they fell to the floor, one of them split in twain. But when the eager crowd pressed forward to see the count, lo! the whole dice showed six, one half of the broken dice also showed six, while on the upper