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## THE MOLTKE-HARDEN CASE.

Under all the circumstances, and with due allowance being made for the mendacity of information that might well have passed for authentic, we do not think Herr Maximilian Harden can consider his sentence of imprisonment and fine excessive. Since the civil suit for libel instituted against the editor of *Die Zukunft* by Count Kuno v. Moltke, public opinion has practically made a *volte-face*. Herr Harden's previous acquittal elicited almost unanimous approbation from the press and people; since, however, the State prosecution has definitely proved that the noxious charges levelled against more than one high personage were primarily based upon the not altogether unbiassed allegations of an hysterical woman, to whom Herr Harden lent a too willing ear, it has been realised by the majority that a great, almost ineffaceable wrong has been done the gentlemen in question. Therefore, the same congratulatory tone that pervaded the newspapers at the previous judgment is again visible now that the first decision has been reversed in so drastic a fashion.

The now notorious *Zukunft* articles are known to have sprung from the most flimsy foundations. Had these foundations contained the rudiments of truth, it would still have been highly reprehensible to publish matter directly affecting the inmost circles of the Empire without the fullest and most minute investigation of the data in hand. This was certainly not attempted by Herr Harden, who, either from those patriotic motives to which he lays claim or from a mere desire for sensation, rushed headlong into print with the most appalling accusations, that could not fail to ultimately prove detrimental to Germany as a whole.

The final speech delivered by the Public Prosecutor, Dr. Isenbiel, was a masterly analysis of the evidence laboriously gathered throughout the trial. He acknowledged Herr Harden's eminence as a political and satirical writer and was acquainted with his methods, with his great industry, and with many political and other controversies which he had waged. Herr Harden appeared to have believed that there had been in the neighbourhood of the Emperor a group of high-placed and influential persons whose activities were prejudicial to the interests of the country, and these persons he had desired to overthrow. The evidence produced before the Court showed that Herr Harden's accusations against Count v. Moltke were baseless and that to Count von Moltke there attached not an atom of the stain which Herr Harden had endeavoured to fasten upon him. Specialists had torn to shreds the flimsy veil of insinuation woven from chance utterances of one or two people. Count v. Moltke would leave the Court without a stain on his character. Herr Harden, like another Icarus, has essayed to fly in the face of the sun and had fallen into a sea of lies and misrepresentations.

So ended one of the most important legal processes ever heard in Berlin. The result by no means represents an attempt to muzzle free speech or to bolster up delinquencies in exalted circles. We repeat that, under the circumstances, the sentence is extremely moderate, and it may act as a deterrent to sensation-mongering, to which certain sections of the contemporary press in all lands are so prone. We venture to believe that had a similar case been tried in England, for example, the culprit would by no means have come off so easily.



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TO ERR IS HUMAN.

Apropos of the recent performance of an oratorio before the convicts at an English prison, we must correct the notion that this was Sing Sing Prison, which, of course, is in America.

PROFITABLE REVIEWING.

Now that the King of Siam has determined to publish a book, several Siamese reviewers are wondering whether they can move into bigger houses, on the strength of the good notices they will write.

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