

of Anjou who accepted the crown of Sicily from the Pope.¹

The administration of the government was improved by Louis. The functions of the bailiffs were defined, and itinerant justices were sent round to superintend them. The king's council was divided into three divisions, the council proper, the financial body, and the judicial court, henceforth known as the *parlement*, which, instead of following the king, was to hold its meetings in the Palais de Justice at Paris. Trial by combat was forbidden, and appeals to the king's court were to take its place. The king himself would often hear and judge his subjects' complaints.

"Many a time it came to pass in the summer time that he would go to seat himself in the wood of Vincennes after hearing mass. And all such as had a case would come and speak with him without the intervention of usher or any other. . . . I saw him once in summer, when, to hear the pleas of his people, he came to the garden in Paris, clad in a robe of camelot, a surcoat of linsey, a cloak of black taffetas and a cap with white peacock's feathers on his head. And he had a tapestry put down for us to sit around him and all the folk who had causes to bring before him remained standing around him. And then he made them have their say."²

Trade benefited by the king's protection of the towns and by his reform of the coinage and regulation that the royal money must circulate throughout the country side by side with that of the nobles who had the right of issuing coins in their domains.

The story of Louis' last days is part of the history

¹ See page 106.

² Joinville.