**Rizal’s Life in Berlin**

In Berlin, Rizal was not a mere student or a curious tourist. He lived in this famous capital of unified Germany for he wanted to: gain further knowledge of ophthalmology; further his studies of sciences and languages; observe the economic and political condition of the German nation; associate with famous German scientists and scholars; and publish his novel, Noli Me Tangere.

**Decision to return home**

Because of the publication of the Noli and the uproar it caused among friars, Rizal was warned not to return home. But he did not heed their warning, he was determined to go home to operate on his mother’s eyes, serve his people who had long been oppressed by Spanish tyrants, find out for himself how the Noli and his other writings were affecting Filipinos and Spaniards in the Philippines and inquire why Leonor Rivera remained silent.

**Beset of Noli**

The battle over the Noli took the form of a virulent war of words. Father Font, printed his report and distributed copies of it in order to discredit the controversial novel. Another Augustinian, Fr. Jose Rodriguez, Prior of Guadalupe, published a series of pamphlets.

**Praise of Noli**

The much-maligned Noli had its gallant defenders who fearlessly came out to prove the merits of the novel or to efute the arguments of the unkind attackers. Father Sanchez, Rizal’s favourite teacher at the Ateneo, defended and praised it in public. Don Segismundo Moret, Dr. Miguel Morayta, and Prof. Blumentritt read and liked the novel. A brilliant defense of the Noli came from an unexpected source. It was by Rev. Vicente Garcia, a Filipino Catholic priest-scholar, wrote a defense of the Noli which was published in Singapore.

**Trouble in Calamba**

After a thorough study of the conditions in Calamba, Rizal wrote down his findings which tenants and officials signed and submitted to the gov’t for actions: hacienda of the Dominican comprised not only the lands but the town of Calamba; profits of the Dominican order increase because of arbitrary increase of rentals paid by the tenants; high rates of interests.

**Farewell to Calamba**

A valiant hero that he was, he was not afraid of any man and neither he was afraid to die but he had to left Calamba because, his presence in Calamba was jeopardizing the safety and happiness of his family and friends; and he could fight better his enemies and serve his country’s cause with greater efficacy by writing in foreign countries.