

all the Catholic cantons occupy the last ranks in the statistics of divorce.

Since the institution of the *referendum* in Federal matters, allowing an appeal to the popular tide from every law passed in either of the two Chambers, the compact mass of our 70,000 Catholic electors has more than once helped to cause the repeal of measures inspired by the despotic radicalism, and have in that way rendered signal service to the cause of right. It was thus that in the year 1882, the radical party, then all powerful in the councils of the Confederation, absolutely laid a plot against the nation by causing both Chambers to pass a vote authorizing a project for giving the Confederation absolute and unconstitutional control over instruction both public and private, especially over the religious education of the young. The gravest political and religious interests were thus engaged in this campaign, which was at one and the same time directed against liberty of conscience and cantonal autonomy ; but, thanks to the concurrence of Catholic electors, the mischievous project was thrown out by the enormous majority of 140,000 votes.

The "Cultur Kampf" had its day in its turn in Switzerland as in Germany, in consequence of the proclamation of Papal infallibility by the Vatican Council. Here, as there, after having awakened the most brilliant hopes in the leading political men, it miscarried miserably, and the Old Catholicism which in Switzerland, as elsewhere, appeared to have, and indeed had, on its part, good sense, right feeling, learning, and conscientiousness, sometimes, indeed, eloquence, perished after a few years' time, crushed under the protection of the Governments.

Especially have the cantons of Geneva and Berne distinguished themselves in this duel to the death waged with a portion of their subjects, there being, however, this difference : that whereas the proceedings of the Bernese Government in the Catholic Jura were only brutal and revolting, that of the late M. Carteret understood here and there to temper what he called the "stray method" with something burlesque, thus throwing a certain element of gaiety into the drama.