

The Kulturkampf

federation as the "Revanche für Sadowa,"¹ as the requital for the crimes which the Protestant state had committed since 1866 in working for the unity of Germany on evangelical lines and encouraging that of Italy in its efforts to capture Venice and Rome. The Chancellor was moreover aware "that there was a party in the Vatican possessed with the fixed determination of disturbing the religious and political peace of Europe, in the fanatical conviction that the universal distress produced by such disturbances would add weight to the Church."² Nevertheless he resolved to await developments and, so long as the operations were carried on purely in the theological field, to remain passive. "Our operations can only be commenced when we see danger of political encroachments," he wrote in January, 1870.³ "For Prussia there is constitutionally and politically only one standpoint, namely, perfect freedom for the Church in religious matters, and determined resistance to every encroach-

¹ View of Blum, "Das deutsche Reich" p. 19, and of Görlach, "Prince Bismarck," p. 212.

² Bismarck to Hohenlohe, Aug. 11th, 1869, Hahn p. 9, Görlach, p. 212.

³ Despatch to von Arnim, ambassador at the Holy See, Jan. 5, '70. Hahn pp. 21, 22, 23.