

petitions, got up by the Jesuits, for the restoration of the Pope, could not even be discussed in the French Assembly. There are much stronger forces, after all, in the Popish countries than the power of the Church.

The Anti-Infallibilist party in France, as in Germany, is gathering strength. But far more dangerous to the Church of Rome is the enormous power of infidelity—a power full of peril to all institutions, civil and sacred.

The Dollinger movement is increasingly successful. Prince Bismarck's attitude is that of defiance to the Ultramontanists of Germany. There has not been such a religious ferment in the whole German Empire since the Reformation. The claims of the Church of Rome are becoming more and more extravagant; and the opposition of the nationalists, led by Bismarck, more decided. Sadowa and Sedan will mark epochs in modern history—political and religious. At Sadowa, Austria was prostrated and compelled to retire from Germany. At Sedan, France was overpowered. Thus the two great Roman Catholic powers were successively overthrown by the young Protestant Giant. The catastrophe led at once to the overthrow of the Pope's temporal power. No wonder that the Ultramontanists set their hearts upon devising ways and means for breaking up the Empire of Germany and the Kingdom of Italy. An alliance between France, Austria and Russia is said to be the favourite plan for accomplishing the Jesuit revolution. But even if the alliance were practicable, the results of it would remain extremely dubious.

In England a strong rally has been made in defence of the Established Church by all parties within that Church. Evangelicals, High Church, Broad Church, can agree in maintaining the Establishment principle if in nothing else. Meanwhile, the highest authorities in the church have decided that it is lawful to teach transubstantiation in the Churches of the Establishment. Books are still being issued from the press by clergymen and laymen that are quite as full of infidelity as the

writings of professed deists of last century. It is well that the evangelical party in the church is also active. An agitation is going on to free the Church of England from all fetters of tests, creeds and articles. In spite of attempted compromises, there have recently been violent contentions between evangelical and High Church parties. Several aggravating lawsuits are going on. Attempts are being made to revise the Prayer Book and get rid of the so-called Athanasian Creed.

The English Presbyterian Church is making sure and satisfactory progress. The Wesleyans have uttered an earnest protest against the endowment of Popish schools. Non-conformity everywhere is holding its ground, and must do so while there is so much corruption and error in the church.

Professor Maurice, one of the leading Broad Schoolmen of the Church of England, is dead. He was a man of great power and earnestness, and of wide influence. There was scarcely a doctrine of Christianity which he did not more or less directly assail or repudiate.

In Scotland, there are three or four cases of disputed settlement that excite some interest within the Established Church. Dr. Norman Macleod, in an appeal published in their *Record*, shows all the exertions of the Foreign Mission Committee have failed to make the Church contribute the amount required to sustain her Foreign Missionaries, comparatively few as they are. "Our debt," he says, "has slowly but surely increased, until it has now come to this, that our annual collection, if as large as last year, along with the extra collection, are not only absorbed by it, but leaving us a debt of £1,400 to begin our financial year with on April 15." Then he adds the following words, which are deserving of serious attention among ourselves as well as in Scotland:—

"Home-mission work might be more real in the end, by our becoming more unselfish, and by our seeking not our own things only but the things of others. In this better way I think we might, as ministers and members of the Church, become possessed of a higher and nobler spirit which would tell immensely on the quality