

The Kulturkampf

to support a movement for the restoration of the Pope. In the preceding August the Prussian bishops, despite their protests of an earlier date, had finally accepted the Infallibility Dogma in their official capacity,¹ and in the election campaign great numbers of the Prussian priesthood worked on behalf of the candidates who had declared themselves in favour of the Ultramontane propaganda. The cause was naturally a popular one in many neighbourhoods, and no less than sixty Catholics found themselves elected as members.² At the time of the elections there was no intention of building up an Ultramontane "fraction" in the House, although the idea of a Catholic party was by no means new.³ In 1852 owing to certain anti-Jesuit decrees, the so-called "Katholische Fraktion" was founded, and gained sixty-one seats in the election of that year. For ten years the party had continued to send a similar number of deputies, but when Bismarck entered the ministry in 1862 the people became more and more interested in

¹ Hirtenbrief der wiederum in Fulda versammelten deutschen Bischöfe—Hahn pp. 36, 37, 38.

² Blum, "Das deutsche Reich," p. 28.

³ An excellent review of the history of the "Katholische Fraktion" from 1852-70 is given by Majunka, "Geschichte des Kulturkampfes."