

The Kulturkampf

of the higher clergy in the direction indicated, but could only report that his advances had been coldly met and declined ; and from this Bismarck concluded, to quote his own words, "that the Papacy must either lack the will or the power to afford him any assistance in obtaining peace of a sufficient value to make up for the displeasure which would be felt by German Protestants and Italian Nationalists should the Empire openly champion the Papal interests in regard to Rome."¹ In other words, as soon as Bismarck saw that Germany could gain nothing in France or elsewhere by supporting the temporal power, he resolved, notwithstanding the assurances which had been conveyed through Arnim to the Holy Father, to take no part whatever in the Roman question.¹

A few days after Ledochowski's return to Germany the elections to the Prussian Abgeordnetenhaus took place.² During the campaign in many of the ridings candidates of the most varied political opinions had come forward and pledged themselves to protect the Church should it be attacked in the general re-organization of Germany, and

¹ This opinion is expressed by Wiermann, p. 3, and by Paul Majunka, "Geschichte des Kulturkampfes," p. 38.

² Nov. 16th, 1870.