

The Kulturkampf

people. They were nearly all taken bodily from the Prussian constitution of 1851,¹ and in addition to providing freedom of speech and the right of assembly, dealt in two sections with the position of the Church in the new Empire. The first asserted the freedom and equality of religious belief; the second, that all sects should "independently order and conduct their affairs and remain in possession and use of their establishments and funds for education and charity." To give anything like a full account of the debate that followed would take many pages. This motion for the support of which the clericals had really primarily been elected, is justly described by Wiermann as an attempt to establish "as a foundation principle in the new constitution of the German Empire, the absolute freedom of the Roman Catholic Church, of her orders, her press and her political agitators."² The sections of the Prussian constitution which deal with civil marriage and the freedom of science and its teaching, ever thorns in the flesh of the

¹ Articles 12, 15, 27, 28, 29, 30 were included almost *in toto*. See von Stengel, "Die Organisation der preussischen Verwaltung," Leipzig, 1884. "Die deutsche Reichsverfassung," von Ph. Zorn, Verlag von Quelle & Meyer in Leipzig, o. D.

² Wiermann, "Geschichte des Kulturkampfes," p. 14.