

The Kulturkampf

to the matter :—" We have been asked whether we could afford the Pope an asylum. I have nothing to say against the scheme : Schloss Brühl at Cologne or Fulda are open to him. It would be an unheard-of turn of events, but a very useful one for us, if we could appear to the Catholics as the only power of the present day, as indeed we are, that could and would afford protection to the highest prince of their church."¹

There was moreover in parts of Germany itself a strong feeling that one of the first acts of the new Empire should be intervention on behalf of the territorial interests of the Pope, and early in November Count Ledochowski, the Archbishop of Posen and Gnesen went to Versailles to interview Bismarck on the subject.² The Chancellor, who at this time was afraid that the interference of the neutral powers might spoil the results of the Prussian victories, suggested that Germany might support the Pope, provided that Papal influence should be brought on the French clergy in the interests of peace.³ Ledochowski tried to move several members

¹ Busch, " beim Tee," I., ch. 1, p. 337, cited by Wiermann, p. 3.

² Bismarck, " Reflections and Reminiscences," p. 53.

³ See " Bismarck in Versailles, Erinnerungen an Versailles, 1870-71," Leipzig, 1886.