

I

THE OPENING OF THE STRUGGLE

In considering the causes of the "Kulturkampf" one is quickly led into the field of international politics. The fate of the temporal power of the Pope was in reality sealed in October, 1861, when Cavour announced in the Sardinian Chamber that the King and he looked forward to the day when Rome should be proclaimed as the "glorious capital of the Kingdom of Italy,"¹ and Pius himself undoubtedly realized at the beginning of the sixties that unless heroic measures were taken in Rome the sovereignty of the Papal States would sooner or later be usurped by the newly proclaimed Kingdom. The events of the next few years, moreover, were so unfavourable to the interests of the Vatican in Europe as only to confirm the Pontiff's fears. The Italian capital was moved from Turin to Florence; on the field of Königgrätz, Catholic leadership in the German Federation was forever doomed; and owing to adverse public opinion in France and to Napoleon's personal relation with the Italian movement, the Empress Eugénie was every year less and less able to champion the temporal interests of the Pope. But on the

¹ Pietro Orsi, "Modern Italy," page 284.