

the congregation, have protested against the decision of the Consistory, and the Supreme Consistory will now have to decide the question once more. But, as General Superintendent Dr. Bruckner mentioned in his opening address, the convocation was according to law, and it would not be justifiable to postpone it. He requested all whom he addressed to cherish a spirit of moderation, and to avoid all religious strife, in order that their whole attention might be devoted to practical church work. The results of the first session do not seem to afford much hope that the different parties will be brought into peaceful co-operation. The majority of the Synod was "Liberal," thirty-four members belong to the joint Lutherans and Evangelicals, and about an equal number to the Middle party. The rest of the two hundred are Liberal. The first proceeding—that of choosing a vice-president, was used as a demonstration. Mr. Hossbach was elected. All the committees were exclusively composed of Liberals. One member expressed a wish that the minority should also be represented in the committees; but the reply was: "We must first see whether the Orthodox leave us some seats in the General Synod." Whereupon Mr. Heffter, in the name of the believing members, said that they required no such act of courtesy. As far as we can judge at present, the General Synod will have a majority of men standing in the faith of the Church; but the absolute rule of the Liberal party in the Church representation of Berlin, will always render many desirable reforms in our capital impossible; and it will, therefore, be a danger to the religious life of the nation. One of the members openly said, that the majority would never give its assent to church taxes until the right of "Liberal theologians" to the use of our pulpits, was secured. The majority also tried to obtain for the Synod the right of fixing the subjects of discussion. Dr. Bruckner practically gave way in the one case, by coming to an agreement on the order of the day for the next meeting. Finally, the majority expressed a wish that all members of the Synod should enjoy, like our members of parliament, the right of being irresponsible for their speeches.

If religious Liberalism should ever succeed in obtaining the rule in our Church, we should have a similar state of things to that which exists in the Grand Duchy of Baden, where, last term, not one single student of theology offered himself as candidate for examination. The secularization of the schools has also a very bad influence in Baden.

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