

The Kulturkampf

members should be expressed "that the days of interference in the inner life of other peoples would on no account and under no circumstances be renewed." "We must make it quite clear," said the mover, "that the new Empire has not the slightest intention of embarking on any German-Italian or German-Christian course of policy." Reichen-
sperger, at this time the virtual leader of the Opposition, replied that the Pope's house was burning and that it was only Christian duty for a neighbor to make some effort to save it, but in the division which followed the Centrum stood almost alone, faced by a majority 250 strong.¹

But the first debate in which the two parties which were to decide the fate of the Empire during the next ten years were sharply defined occurred during the "Grundrechtsdebatte" in April,² when Reichen-
sperger on behalf of his party proposed in an amendment to the constitution of the Empire, already agreed upon by the princes at Versailles, seven articles³ which should define the fundamental rights of the German

¹ Division of March 30th, 1871, 43-63. Sten. Berichte, Reich.

² Grundrechtsdebatte, April 1-4th, *ibid.* Per. I, Ses. i. Bd. I.

³ For text of chief articles see Appendix B, p. 134.