

temporal power ; and the possible rise of its spiritual energy, as a counterpoise, which many Protestants feared, has been effectually hindered. The creation of a united Germany has annulled the Papal weight of France, and partially alienated Austria ; and though the rash and ill-advised collision of the military German Empire with the Papacy has ended in repulse, the Papacy, as a dogmatic system, has gained nothing, and has concentrated opposition to its spiritual claims along the whole Protestant line. It is not easy to name a time in which all educated German thought, orthodox and rationalist alike, was more inaccessible to distinctively Romish doctrine ; and though the political necessities have prompted Bismarck to repair, with awkward surgery, his own previous rough handling, the style of the new Emperor's recent visit to the imprisoned Pope, with a united and unsympathetic Italy looking on, has provoked in the Continental organs a comment upon the altered days since emperors held the Papal stirrup, and did penance to regain its most stinted absolution. The fall of Rome, all the more conspicuous for its unregarded thunders against its spoilers, and abortive demands of infallibility, is not redeemed by any bright conquest over the wide field of its warfare. Some will point to England, and to its accessions there, both by direct proselytism and by a wide-spread diffusion of a Romanised type of doctrine and ritual in regions beyond—due to the Tractarian movement. But while this fact is to be deplored, and estimated at its true gravity, it cannot be looked upon as more than an eddy upon the world-wide stream. A few men of genius and devotion, Cardinal Newman pre-eminent among them, have gone over to the Romish faith. They have added little to its distinctive theology, or shown any power to arrest its European decay ; in fact, have risen to their highest greatness in what is not Romish, but common to universal Christianity. Proselytes like these were not easy to find ; and the succession has long stopped. The subsequent influence, proceeding not so much from them as from others who more or less sympathised with them but halted at an earlier point, has no doubt been wide and visible, but it may be exaggerated. Not a few who are