

Hon. Mr. Windhorst, the leader of the Catholic party in the German Parliament, added great interest to the occasion. The most important questions which could concern the Roman Catholic Church were freely discussed in a popular, energetic, and often passionate manner, differing entirely from the customary doleful clerical tone. They evidently recovered their strength in the fire of the battle!

All the questions debated in the numerous committees into which the congress was divided can be resolved into one—that which to-day engages the attention of all the churches: How to regain a lost or declining influence upon the world, which has either partly or wholly escaped their control? It is of great importance to know what response to this question was given at Amberg.

Judging from the declarations and manifestations made in the Catholic Congress, we learn that they rallied about the Papal power at Rome, and more than ever exalted the authority of the Holy Father. They listened with enthusiasm to the letter from the Pope, addressed to the assembly, designed to bless and stimulate their zeal in favor of the deliverance of the church from the dominion of the civil authorities. There was at Amberg a continued prostration before that authority, more than ever recognized as infallible. At the closing session the entire assembly threw itself upon bended knees, in order the better to affirm their desire for this absolute submission. We can not refrain from noting a marked contrast between this adoration of the papacy and the person who is the object of it—Leo XIII; so circumspect and moderate, living so little in the fanciful and the absolute, who could never have been guilty of provoking the tyrannous definition of the Council of 1870. That which is stranger still is to see all Catholic Germany precipitate itself into this servitude, notwithstanding the long resistance offered by some of its most eminent bishops to the proclamation of the new dogma of infallibility prior to 1870. Ultramontanism has triumphed along the whole line, not only in that which concerns the infallibility of the Pope, but also in the kind of devotion, which, since the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, had more and more been enthroned in the heart of contemporaneous Catholicism. No other part of the Pope's encyclical letter was more applauded at Amberg than that which referred to the cultus of the rosary, the adoration of the Virgin Mary.

At the same time let us acknowledge, to the honor of the German Catholics, that they have known how to employ the most efficient methods to counteract the evils of the present and to regain their influence upon the world at large. They have created a number of admirable agencies of propagandism and of benevolence, by which they have attempted, little by little, to solve the social problems of the day in a practical manner. Mission work in foreign countries