

The Kulturkampf

The elections to the first Reichstag took place on March 3rd.¹ The fears of the Catholic South for the fate of their Church in the newly-founded Empire, and the natural desire that the Pope should be restored to power in Rome, caused the Ultramontanes to make a determined effort to gain representation in Parliament. In order to capture the votes of those people to whom the religious causes did not appeal, the candidates also pleaded against over-centralization in Berlin and the complete sinking of the nationality of the various states in that of a united Germany. In short, the Catholic and Individualistic policies were united, and thus it came about that Ultramontanes, Poles, Guelphs, Social Democrats, and later the French of Alsace and Lorraine, and indeed every opponent of Nationalism, helped the new party on to victory and the capture of over sixty seats in the first Reichstag.²

The questions at issue came up almost immediately upon the meeting of the House, when it was moved that in reply to the Address³ from the Throne the hope of the

¹ "Provinzialkorrespondenz," Jan. 23rd, contains the writ for the elections of Mar. 3rd.

² "Provinzialkorrespondenz," April 5th.

³ The reply was moved by von Bennigsen, March 29th, 1871. Sten. Berichte, Reichstag. Periode I., Session I., Band I.