

is a guarantee that the Government will not give way. On the other hand, if the Roman bishops are prepared to give up their opposition and to recognize the laws of the State, the Government will probably not be disinclined to modify some articles of the May Laws, which indeed are rather hard on the Roman Catholics, and which can hardly be maintained when peace is restored. If, however, the Church of Rome must inevitably lose much by a protracted continuation of the conflict, it is almost the same with the State. Even the most successful and victorious campaign inflicts many wounds and losses to the victors. Our Government, in fact, only wishes to repel the unjust pretensions of the Roman hierarchy; but a large portion of the people see in what is going on a warfare against all churches and all religion. The spirit of infidelity and open hostility is, alas! increasing throughout Germany, and it would be a great blessing if political interests could be once more viewed apart from ecclesiastical matters.

The bishops have not maintained their absolutely negative position as regards the law on the administration of Church property in the Catholic congregations. They have allowed the clergy to take a share in the new organization, and that is certainly a good sign.

Dr. Falk's journey to the Rhine has been a triumphal course. Almost everywhere he was spontaneously made the object of expressions of sympathy; and though many Catholic burgomasters gladly seized the opportunity to recognize his merits in art and science, there can be no doubt that all was intended as a demonstration in favour of the Government in its conflict against Ultramontaniam.

THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The University of Berlin has elected Professor Hinschins as its delegate to

the General Synod; and as the Government has caused this election to take place at the present time, it must be hoped that the General Synod will meet this autumn. The different parties are already making preparation, and the religious press is active on the subject. The "Liberals" wish the General Synod to reform the system of election; they desire that the General Synod should be directly elected by the church members—not, as at present, by the provincial synods. Then they wish a larger infusion of the lay element; and, finally, a representation of the congregations in proportion to the number of members in each. This latter proposal is intended to secure a greater number of delegates from the larger congregations in our populous cities. The object, of course, is only to give the better chance for a "Liberal" majority. Dr. Kogel, in one of the district synods, proposed to divide our large parishes in the cities into a number of small parishes. This would be very useful as a means of promoting the increase of religious life, and would at the same time secure the object of the "Liberals"—more delegates from the cities in the synods. Yet the "Liberals" voted against the proposition of Dr. Kogel. They do not want, it seems, to see their wish realized in such a way as this, inasmuch as the congregations would thus be obliged to make some sacrifice for their new rights.

MADAGASCAR.

A copy of the first Malagasy hymn and tune book printed at the London Missionary Society's press has just arrived in England. It contains 120 hymns, the tunes being printed on the same page. There are also chants. The Tonic Sol-fa notation is used, that being the system taught in the schools, and a course of exercises is