

The Kulturkampf

with her devotion to the Catholic Church and the Pope," and that "in case of victory the Empress would have shown her devotion to the Pope in Germany" and so have provided a *fiche de consolation*, even if an inadequate one, for the injuries which the Papal See had sustained in Italy with, and by means of, Napoleon's concurrence.¹ Once let the French armies reach Berlin and the interests of the Catholic Church in Prussia would be safe for many years to come.

Such were the hopes of the Curia, but never were hopes destined to bitterer disappointment. Sedan fell; Eugénie fled to Protestant England; the Paris mob, with the roar of German cannon in its ears, emancipated itself from the leadership of the Jesuits and proclaimed a republic; and on September 20th, as the German artillery bombarded Paris, the Italian troops entered Rome, and the Temporal Power was proclaimed to be at an end.

Pius was alone in Europe, the enemy within his gates and he himself without an ally. Prussia had been responsible for it

¹ Bismarck, "Reflections and Reminiscences," Vol. II., p. 103.

See also Bismarck's speech of March 10th, 1872, in the Herrenhaus when he spoke of what had been expected "from the *gestis Dei per Francos* in the ecclesiastical realm in Germany."