

The Kulturkampf

the last, or at any rate another chapter of the old, old stories of the Middle Ages. He made possible the realization of the German dream of unity, brought to maturity the fruits of the wars of liberation, re-established the imperial throne, and lastly,—and this is of more importance to us in the present connection,—he revived the ancient struggle which had filled the pages of history throughout the Middle Ages, the struggle between priest and king, between Pope and Emperor. It was indeed a far cry from Konradin of Hohenstaufen, that last representative of the Swabian dynasty who died beneath the Papal axe wielded by French conquerors, to Wilhelm of Hohenzollern, whom Pius IX. hoped to humble by the *gestis Dei per Francos*; to many it might seem that the gulf between the two was not to be bridged over. Yet notwithstanding all the changes which the lapse of time had brought forth, under Bismarck the struggle between Guelph and Ghibelline was revived, and a new chapter added to the story which for seven centuries had lain untouched. The war which the newly founded empire waged with Rome was precisely the same struggle which in 1254 had ended with the virtual destruction of the Empire. It was of course trans-