

The Kulturkampf

been elected ; had it been freely given they would not at this time have constituted themselves into a party ; but the support had been refused, and the time had therefore come for concerted action. There was in reality no change of front, no contradiction of the expressed convictions of the leading Catholic politicians in regard to the inadvisability of reviving the Catholic Party ; for the Catholic Party had not been revived. The two names which had been provided for the new "fraction" were absolutely non-sectarian, and it was hoped and even expected that many Protestants who favored the restoration of the Pope, would join with the Centrum until the present crisis should be passed. It was felt that there was no time to be lost in beginning the campaign for German intervention in Italy, and on February 18th an address¹ was sent to the Kaiser at Versailles, praying that "one of the first acts of the Imperial wisdom and justice" might be "the restoration of the rights and freedom of the Holy Father." For the Papacy there could be no other independence than sovereignty itself.

¹ Hahn p. 41, "Adresse an den Kaiser Wilhelm in Versailles um Wiederherstellung des Kirchenstaats und der weltlichen Souveränität des Papstes."