

The Kulturkampf

One of Bismarck's earliest biographers, the German Görlach, was perhaps the first of his contemporaries to remark that the surest sign of the Chancellor's genius is the fact that one is obliged to go back several centuries to understand the connection of his actions. Whether this be a proof of a man's historical importance or not is a question concerning which much might be said ; at all events everyone will admit that Görlach was right in claiming it as one of the characteristics of Bismarck's work. For to understand that work in its broadest and deepest significance one must go back almost to the days of which the *Germania* treats, and must study all those elements, forces and antagonisms which have from time to time characterized the story of the German people, and which the man of blood and iron aroused, but also brought to their final crisis. He seemed to have a genius for reviving and revising history ; for writing, as it were,