

The Kulturkampf

of healthy opposition, must always constitute the conclusive argument against any form of Church Union.

Nevertheless, the whole question was opened up again last year by an address delivered by Prof. Harnack, at the academic celebration of the Kaiser's birthday, concerning the possibility of a reconciliation in Germany between the two great Christian bodies. It is indeed clear that the relations between the Churches have been altered by the rebellion of a considerable portion of Catholic Germany against the recent Papal Syllabus and Encyclical. An attempt has been and is now being made to escape from beneath the thick cover of mediaeval ignorance in which some would still envelop Germany, and to break from the bonds which in the past have debarred the Catholic portion of the population from taking an active part in the intellectual life of the Empire. The hour of fate has indeed struck for Catholic Germany, and in such an hour if the Catholics themselves make the attempt to gain their freedom, the Protestants will probably not withhold a helping and sympathetic hand. The idea of a union between the Roman and Wittenberg types of Christianity is of course mere phantasy, and when men come forward to declare