“Religious Persecution in Germany,” *Catholic Civilization*, August 17, 1935

The ordinary condition of the Church, to live and grow in the midst of opposition and persecutions, has become aggravated in our days in many civilized countries. And this above all because modern persecutors, more than ancient ones, have sought and are always seeking plausible justifications and ingenious pretexts to color their harassments, especially taking advantage of political reasons, even when these are totally irrelevant. Among the cases that occurred in the last century, for example, that of Germany has remained famous, under Bismarck, in the tenacious persecution unleashed against Catholics, and known by the name of “struggle for civilization” or “culture”: “*Kulturkampf*.”

Now, half a century later, we see the case not only renewed, but much worse in the audacity of motivation and in the arrogance of conduct, in the strange oppression by the German Government that is multiplying and getting worse every day toward Catholics, merely because of fidelity to their religion and resistance to the apostasy that certain factors of Nazism would like to impose on them, to the extreme of paganism. . . .