

apostolic exhortation, 'Let us hold fast our profession.' I am therefore, and I will, *Deo juvante*, remain till the end, and by grace only, first of all a Christian,—then a Reformed Christian,—and thirdly, a Presbyterian one—without bigotry, but without waver- ing. The first of these qualifications is the most precious to me; the second comes next, but the last is also in my judgment of a proportionate and equitable value."

In the sitting of the Grand Council of Basle, on the 9th inst., Deputy Shonbein proposed to insert the following clauses in the project for the revision of the Pact:—

1. That every Swiss should have the right to belong to whatever confession of faith he thought fit, and to openly fulfil the duties imposed upon him by the same in every part of the Confederation.

2. That religion was in no way to be connected with political questions.

The proposition on being put to the vote was carried by a majority of 22. It will, therefore, come under discussion.

Piedmont.

THE VAUDOIS OF PIEDMONT.—The Marquis d'Azeglio has recently presented a petition to Charles Albert, King of Sardinia, in favour of the emancipation of the Jews and Protestants of that kingdom. The petition was numerously signed, and among the subscribers were four bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. Should this movement in favour of religious liberty prove successful, the Protestants of Piedmont, who have hitherto been denied the rights of citizenship in the land of their birth, will enjoy the same freedom in the exercise of their religion as their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen.

Italy.

A new "List of Prohibited Books has been recently published at Rome. This is a retrograde movement; but it is not likely to last long.

Dr. Achilli is engaged in preparing for the press a revised translation of the Scriptures in Italian, founded on the versions of Diodati and Martini.

Signor Maper, formerly an ecclesiastic at Rome, who has renounced Popery and sought refuge in England, delivered a Lecture in London a short time ago, on the state of religion in Italy. Adverting to the priesthood, he observed:—

"The secular clergy were in general Deists. However startling this might appear at first, it was the natural effect of their circumstances. Compelled, morning by morning, notwithstanding their impure life,

to celebrate the exercises of religion, which condemned their own immoral practices, they were obliged to seek refuge in the rejection of Revelation. The people were well aware of their hypocrisy, their immorality, and their avarice; and hence their dislike of the clergy. The lecturer recollected once meeting with a peasant in the country, while in Italy, who asked him what was meant by the three cornered hat of the clergy. He was puzzled how to answer the question, for he did not know himself what was the symbolical meaning of the three corners. Said the peasant, 'I can tell you; the three corners are three tongues which address the people. The first tongue says, 'I know your secrets, but you do not know mine,'—this was the confessional; the second says, 'I take your money, and you do not take mine,'—this was their avarice; and the third says, 'I can trouble and dishonour your families, and you cannot dishonour mine.' Such was the answer of the peasant, and it expressed completely the character of Catholicism."

Small bands of pious persons, he added, are to be found in various parts of Italy, who meet privately for prayer and exhortation.

South Africa.

The Missionaries of the Paris Missionary Society are engaged in founding an Institution for the training of Native Agents. The particulars are contained in the following extract of a letter from the Rev. P. Lemuez:—

"Its object, as already alluded to, is to prepare individuals who may feel a desire to be employed in the missionary work, so as to make them, if possible, efficient school-masters or evangelists. The present state of the mission seems to call for and to justify such an attempt. The chief of the Bassuto nation is favouring education; a treaty of peace has been lately concluded between the British government and that chief; some of his household have been converted, and are received in church fellowship; and the gospel is preached with great success to congregations varying from three to five hundred hearers. But part of the population is scattered over the surface of the country, forming small communities or hamlets, to which the missionaries have little access. Sometimes, it is true, the converts visit those places, for the purpose of teaching the ignorant to read and to pray; but as their occupations do not allow them to stay long in one place, these people are soon left to themselves, without the means of learning, unless they resort for some time to the next mis-