

whole of their discourses, they take care to suit themselves to the capacity of their hearers, as to method, matter, and expression, and to the prevailing sins of the time and place, with all prudent and zealous freedom and plainness: As also, that they make gospel subjects their main theme and study, and press with all earnestness the practice of moral duties in a gospel manner: And that they forbear delivering anything in public that may tend more to amusement than edification, and beware of bringing into their sermons and public discourses matters of doubtful disputation, which tend to engender strife rather than promote the edification of Christians."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

FEARFUL Earthquakes occurred in Italy and South France on Feb. 23rd, with awful loss of life and property. A telegram from Rome on the 24th says the total number of deaths reported up to the present time is about 2000. Shocks were felt at Parma, Turin and Cozenza. Undulations of the earth were noticed at Catania in Sicily, at the foot of Mount Etna.

THE German Elections give a majority of about 50 in favor of the strong national policy of Emperor William and Prince Bismarck. The Pope has given them his decided aid, even against the policy of France. This is especially strange, because the Prussian laws ordain that each bishop shall swear to be submissive, loyal, obedient and devoted to the King of Prussia, and to inculcate on his clergy and the people of his diocese veneration and fidelity towards the King, the love of fatherland and obedience to the State's laws. The oath also binds the bishop to refuse to tolerate by any of his clergy any teachings or action opposed to the spirit of the vows taken by the bishop on making the oath, and abstain from maintaining, either within or outside of the country, any relation prejudicial to the security of the country. The oath concludes as follows: "I promise to keep all this the more inviolate, as I am certain that by the oath I took to the Pope and church I did not bind myself to anything that might be opposed to this oath of allegiance."

THE British Parliament goes on with its work firmly and strongly.

MR. PARNELL'S amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech was rejected by a vote of 352 to 246.

A despatch from Vienna to the *Temps* says Prince Bismarck has succeeded in establishing a coalition between Austria, England and Italy against Russia. Germany will join the coalition if France supports Russia.

STANLEY and his associates are on their way to the most southerly province of the Soudan to rescue Emin Bey. He takes the Zanzibar route, chiefly for the reason that he had to get his assistants in the Zanzibar region. It is nine years since Dr. Emin proceeded to the province in question, and he proved a ruler of rare genius and power—a worthy associate of the indomitable Gordon. In a few years he cleaned out the slave traders, and by the end of 1881 he so managed his trust that the province had a surplus revenue of £8000.

THE pensions paid by the United States amount to \$75,000,000,—more than double the whole revenue of Canada.

WHILE our American neighbors are trying to bully Canada into giving them free access to our inshore fisheries, they are making special efforts just now to protect their own. Last week, almost without a dissenting voice, the House Committee on Shipping resolved to make a favorable report on Mr. Dingley's bill to protect the fisheries of the United States. The bill makes liable to seizure and forfeiture any foreign vessels found taking fish of any kind within three marine miles of the shores of the United States.

SAD NEWS of starvation of men and cattle come from the States. There is serious apprehension that there will be appalling loss of life in Montana. The snow has drifted to enormous depths, and people living at the mountain bases are in imminent danger of meeting a horrible fate beneath an avalanche, or freezing to death. Should another protracted storm occur, it is believed hundreds will succumb to its terrors. As it is, more people have been frozen to death this winter than for a quarter of a century. In the vicinity of Little Jennie and Grand Central mines, in Bald mountain, the snow is eight feet deep on the level, and travel is impossible except on snowshoes.

THE *London Guardian* says:—"Now that patronage has been practically abolished, it needs a very strong ecclesiastical microscope to discern the remaining distinctions between the Established Church of Scotland and the Free Church. The majority of the latter body, however, will not hear of reunion on the basis of Establishment, and, naturally enough, the Established Church does not care to discuss reunion on any other basis. She no doubt