

Lent season are filled with able monkish preachers whose passionate bursts of invective against the Government, more unrestrained than in former years, are the subjects of astonishment and indignant protest on the part of newspapers and townspeople. A priest in Monza refuses to baptize a child by the name of Evangelico Filippo, and a colporteur in Venice is imprisoned and fined 20 florins, with the seizure of 150 Bibles.—Several officers in Florence have seized all the Testaments given by Miss Burton (a lady who has been laboring among the soldiers) to the men of their regiments, and had the men themselves put under arrest, and one man placed in irons.

THE PUBLIC CHARITIES OF ITALY are still monopolized by the priests. The correspondent of the *Evangelical Christendom* says:—"The Christian pastors of Milan have found their sick members so exposed to the tormentation of monks and nuns in the public hospitals, and have been able to obtain so little redress or promise of amendment on the part of the authorities of these charities, that they have now unitedly arranged to support all the ailing adherents of the Gospel cause in a Convalescent Home, already established, and in which the charge is three francs per diem. In Florence a British Charitable Fund, similar to that which has been for thirty years in operation in Paris, has this month been established, for the purpose of aiding in every way distressed British subjects."

The correspondent of the *Christian Work* writes of the dowries which, he says, exist in many parishes, for the well-conducted daughters of the poor. To obtain these dowries a certificate from the parish priest is necessary, and, of course, the slightest odor of Protestantism is quite sufficient to lead the priest to refuse it. Not a few of these charities have our poor Evangelicals to sacrifice, in addition to those pecuniary losses which often come upon them, the result of active persecution, such as loss of employment, ejection from habitation, and the like.

DON AMBROGIO is a talented and eccentric priest who is evangelizing through Piedmont and Lombardy on his own account. His habit is to move about, without any fixed plan, and to address crowds of people who are charmed with his manly bearing and eloquent speech, in the market places and from the steps of cathedrals and churches. At Ivrea, the people were so fascinated that they took possession of him, and, shoulder high, bore him in triumph to the parish church, where he yielded to their solicitations and preached. The priests sued for

1500 francs of damages and a long term of imprisonment, but the court only granted 50 francs of fine and three days of prison. The priests were dissatisfied, and appealed. Don Ambrogio, too, appealed to be let free. The case lately came before the Court of the Senate, which corresponds to the House of Lords. The exciting political affairs of September last led to a frequent postponement; but finally the case was decided against the priests, for their appeal was rejected and they had all the costs to pay.

The colporteurs who follow in his wake make large sales, as he is constantly urging the reading of the Bible upon every one. The people, therefore, ask the colporteur not for the Bible, but for Don Ambrogio's book. The priests may well dread him, for he is constantly crying out, "Don't give your money to the priest, but to the poor; the death of Christ has brought us the pardon of our sins, and not the absolution of the priests."

TURKEY.—The intelligence from Turkey is far from satisfactory. There seems to be a settled determination on the part of the Turkish authorities to render civil and religious liberty in Turkey, so far as it relates to the Turks themselves, a dead letter, and to treat the Hattihumayon, that splendid monument of the wisdom and genius of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, as a piece of waste paper. Protestants are in the outlying districts often saddled with doubled taxes; in no case is it allowed that a Turk should turn a Protestant. This is curiously illustrated by the fact that whereas hitherto the firman for the establishment of a Protestant community directed the pashas to enroll any Turk who might profess the Protestant faith—though such an enrolment never in fact took place—now the merely nominal permission is taken away, and the firmans direct only Greeks and Armenians who profess Protestantism to be enrolled.

Mehemet Pasha, the Naval Secretary, the only really honest and incorruptible member of the Turkish Government, died in February, under circumstances which have led the people generally to believe that he was poisoned. It is a sad comment upon the morals of this empire, that his very virtues are believed by the Turks themselves to have been the cause of his untimely death. Mehemet Pasha had been in England, and once went on a special visit to America.

The Rev. H. Jessup writes from Beyrout:—"Two Mahomedans have become Christians in Damascus, and one of them has been brought to Beyrout in chains, and is now confined in the barracks here, exposed to insults and suffering. Chains are on his neck, and he will probably be speedily put out of the way. No one is allowed to