

SYNODICAL ACTION IN DENMARK.—The *Independent* says that the draft of a new constitution for the Danish Church has been published by the committee, which had of its own accord taken this matter into its own hands, in order to bring the question of the promised new constitution to one issue or other. According to this draft the national Church would receive an ecclesiastical council, consisting of all the bishops of the country, the members of the theological faculty, and one member of the faculty of law, of eighteen more clerical and twenty-six lay members. All actual clergymen are to participate in the election of the clerical, and all members of the Church in the election of the lay, representatives. No change shall be made in the ecclesiastical law without having previously the opinion of the ecclesiastical council. It shall assemble every second year, and the duration of its regular sessions is fixed at two months, but the government will be at liberty to prolong the regular session, or to convolve extraordinary ones. The assemblies shall always take place at Copenhagen, and the members not residing in Copenhagen will receive per diem the indemnification of four florins (or about two dollars and a half) for travelling expenses and board. We have not heard of any new steps of the Minister of Public Worship relative to the constitution, but his last appointments were all in favor of the party from which the above draft proceeds. The Danish people have been in expectancy of a new constitution ever since June 5th, 1849, when the new fundamental law was promulgated. This law made all civil and political law independent upon any religious creed, and introduced full religious liberty, yet declared the evangelical Lutheran Church, to which the majority of the population belongs, as the national Church; which as such, would receive the support of the State, without, however, compelling any one to contribute for the support of any other denomination than his own. Concerning the constitution of the Church, it was only said that a special law would regulate it. This law has not yet appeared. A committee appointed by Prof. Madvig, when Minister of Worship, came to no result, and therefore the national party in the Church undertook to prepare the draft above mentioned.

SUPPOSED REMAINS OF THE TOWER OF BABEL.—M. Ernest Pilon gives an account of some curious archaeological discoveries that have been made in Western Asia by the French Consul at Mossul. In the course of some operations he opened trenches through an enormous tumulus, which appeared to be formed by the falling down of a series of terraces. The earth which had fallen down between the walls of different apartments received and perfectly preserved impressions of sculpture and bassi-relievi, and was, moreover, found to contain a multitude of small ornaments, engraved stones, and coins of ancient Nineveh. He says,—"The wonder of wonders, the greatest sight that we can behold in these days, is Babel. The proud tower has lost six of its gradations or floors, and the two that remain are visible twenty leagues off. The quadrangular base is one hundred and ninety-four metres on each side. The bricks of which it is built are composed of a pure white clay, but slightly fired to a pale yellow tint, which before firing was covered with characters. The pitch with which we are taught they are bound together is still found in a spring close by." Among other relics of an almost forgotten civilization were found inscriptions on bands of gold, silver and copper, and on a metal which is unknown, but which seems to have somewhat the appearance of ivory. —*Building News.*

A LITTLE Swedish girl, we are told by a contemporary, was walking with her father one night, under the starry sky, intently meditating upon the glories of heaven. At last, looking up to the sky, she said, "Father, I have been thinking if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be?"

News Department.

Extracts from latest English Papers.

ENGLAND.

We are happy to state that her Majesty's recovery from her confinement has been rapid and satisfactory. The last bulletin was issued on Monday, as follows:—

Buckingham Palace, April 20, 9 a.m.

The Queen is convalescent. The infant Princess is well.

JAMES CLARK, M.D.

CHARLES LOOCK, M.D.

ROBERT FRANKSON, M.D.

Her Majesty's recovery is so far advanced that no further bulletins will be issued.

As soon as her Majesty is strong enough to travel, it is recommended by the medical gentlemen in attendance that the Queen should make a short trip to the sea-side, so as thoroughly to complete her recovery,

and restore her health to its usual vigour in the shortest possible time. For this purpose it is expected, should everything go on as favourably as it has hitherto done, that her Majesty may be enabled to leave town for her marine palace, Osborne, Isle of Wight, the latter end of the first week in May.—*Observer.*

The Duchess of Gloucester is in a dying state, apparently from natural decay. The Queen is reported convalescent, but in want of sea air, and the health of the infant Princess all that could be desired.

Prince Albert and the Prince of Wales go out most days for rides. On Monday they visited the Tower. The Royal Family are also very regular in their inquiries at Gloucester house after their dying relative, the last of the children of George III. On Sunday they attended as usual in the private chapel of the palace, when the Dean of Windsor officiated at divine service.

Tuesday, the 5th of May, is fixed by His Royal Highness Prince Albert as the day on which he will open the Manchester Exhibition. The next day the Prince will visit Salford, receive an address from the corporation, and will inaugurate the statue of her Majesty, to commemorate her Majesty's visit in 1851, when she was enthusiastically received by upwards of 70,000 Sunday school children and teachers.

The following circular, establishing a system of examination for staff appointments, has been issued from the Horse Guards:—

His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief having had under his serious consideration the question of army education, especially as relating to qualifications for staff appointments, is pleased to promulgate, for general information, that from and after the 1st of January, 1858, the undermentioned requirements will be considered indispensable before appointment to the situations annexed. Every officer, before appointment, will be required to undergo an examination on the subjects mentioned, in such manner as shall be hereafter announced. This regulation is not intended to affect officers now on the staff.

Aides-de-Camp.

To write a distinct and legible hand, and compose English correctly.

To have a good colloquial knowledge of one foreign language.

To have a good eye for a country, and to be able to produce an intelligible sketch of it.

To know the use of sketching compass, or pocket-sextant—in order to lay down and protract the leading features of a country to be described.

To have a thorough knowledge of regimental duty—the tactics and field movements on an extended scale.

Also a knowledge of field fortifications, both as regards construction and correct description on reconnaissance.

Brigade-Majors.

To have all the qualifications of a good Adjutant—the same acquirements as are exacted from an Aide-de-Camp—and a thorough knowledge of military law, and the army and War-office regulations.

The following further acquirements will be required to qualify for Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General and Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General, viz.:—*Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.*

Practical sketching—both on horseback, called "flying sketching" as well as correct and finished plotting; practical trigonometry and geometry, with knowledge of logarithms.

To write, read, and speak at least one foreign language; to judge of ground and its proper occupation by all arms; to have a perfect knowledge of castrametation, and the principles of permanent fortification.

And to be thoroughly acquainted with geography and military history—especially as relates to the campaigns of ancient and modern Commanders.

Assistant Adjutant and Assistant Quartermaster-General.

To the whole of the foregoing will be added for Assistant Adjutant and Assistant Quartermaster-General, the elements of mechanics, hydrostatics, and geology; the construction of military bridges, dams, &c.; an acquaintance with the principles of strategy; and statistics of the army.

All Staff Officers should be able to ride well.

By command of his Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief,

G. A. WETHERALL, Adjutant-General.

The reported appointment of the Rev. and Hon. J. T. Pelham, brother of the Earl of Chichester, to the see of Norwich, appears to have been at least premature. The *Globe* says that—

As the Queen has at present no power to accept the resignation of the Bishop of Norwich, and that in ordinary course some two or three months must elapse before an Act of Parliament can be passed making it lawful for her Majesty to do so, it is unnecessary for us to say that no step has yet been taken taken for filling up a vacancy which is only prospective.

It would appear, however, to be not the less certain, for the *Observer* says subsequently—

We are enabled to state positively that the selection of the Queen has fallen upon the Hon. and Rev. J. T. Pelham, Rector of Marylebone, for election to the bishopric of Norwich, in succession to Dr. Hulse, who has placed his resignation in the hands of his metropolitan, the Archbishop of Canterbury. This announcement may yet at rest all speculations as to the filling up of the vacant see, which may have been

meant to influence the decision before it seemed to be finally made.

At the last monthly meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, held at the Society's house, 70, Pall-mall, a financial report of very encouraging character was presented by Lord Lytton, chairman of the finance committee. In the year ending 31st. December, 1856, the Society's income (excluding balance, &c.) from general and special funds, amounted to £104,470. Comparing this result with the estimates which had been made in the beginning of 1856, the report showed that the variations from those estimates were favourable to the society, in respect to both the income, which exceeded, and the expenditure, which fell below what had been calculated at the beginning of the year. The report gave the following estimate of expenditure on account of the general fund in 1857, being the amounts (exclusive of the special funds) which the society stands pledged to raise in 1857 for the several dioceses, viz.:—Nova Scotia £4,252, Fredericton £4,088, Quebec £2,680, Montreal 3,650, Toronto (last instalment) £4,937, Rupert's Land £200, Newfoundland £5,110, Jamaica 1,050, Antigua £100, Barbados £150, Guiana £1,300, Capetown £941, Grahamstown £1,500, Natal £550, Mauritius £200, Seychelles £77, Calcutta £7,785, Madras £9,321, Colombo £1,828, Labuan £1,500, Sydney £950, Melbourne £650, Adelaide £500, Perth £250, Newcastle £300, Tasmania £125, Norfolk Island £100, New Zealand £1,171.

The report further showed that the society had in hand a surplus balance, which, after paying off the last instalment of a grant voted in aid of the Clergy Reserves Commutation Fund, in the diocese of Toronto, amounted to £10,500; and it recommended that this sum should be expended in grants spread over three years. But besides this it appeared that an additional sum of £4,500 a year might fairly be appropriated from the ordinary income of the society, which therefore had an available sum of £8,000 a year for the next three years, to apply in any way which might seem most instrumental to the propagation of the Gospel. After a full and careful consideration of the finance report, and of the various claims upon the society's funds, the following new grants were made:—Diocese of Capetown £1,200, diocese of Natal, for heathen missions, £1,000. A grant to Grahamstown, amounting, out of the Society's general fund, to £2,250, was renewed. Heathen missions:—Diocese of Labuan (Borneo) £500, diocese of Colombo £200, diocese of Mauritius £800, diocese of Newcastle, £200, diocese of Rupert's Land £50. It was resolved also to devote a sum of £250 a year towards the establishment of a mission in Vancouver's Island, where there is a population of 26,000 native Indians. The sum of £3,000 a year was reserved for new missionary operations in India; £300 of it only having been appropriated to the very promising mission of Cuddapah, in the diocese of Madras. For the most profitable expenditure of the remaining £2,700 the Society waits for well-considered schemes to be sent home from India.

AUSTRIA.

On the 9th the ceremony of "The Washing of Feet" took place at the Austrian Court:—

At nine o'clock in the morning twenty-four old people—twelve men and as many women—who were dressed in the ancient German costume, were conducted to the "Hall of Ceremony" of the palace. On their arrival the men were placed on one side of a long table, and the women on the other. As soon as the seniors had taken their seats their Majesties entered, and placed before them a great number of dishes, which were brought in trays by the Imperial servers. The Emperor handed the "crockery" in a masterly way, but the Empress required assistance of the ladies. After the dishes had been set on the table they were removed and placed in twenty-four large baskets, which were sent to the rooms occupied by the paupers in the almshouse. At ten o'clock the washing of feet began in the chapel of the palace. The Emperor performed the ceremony on the twelve old men, and the Empress on the women. His Majesty received from the hands of his Lord Steward a gilt ewer, and poured from it a few drops of water on one of the feet of each of the men. After a towel had been pressed once or twice on each of the wetted feet, and a little bag containing thirty-two silver groats had been hung round the necks of the old people, the ceremony was at an end. Her Majesty, who was attended by her Lord Steward, acted in exactly the same way as her Imperial consort.

GERMANY.

Prince Alfred is just now the subject of discussion in Germany. According to a letter from Coburg to the *Kreuz Zeitung*:—

Prince Alfred of England is destined to succeed to the united sovereignty of the duchies of Coburg-