

also of the Theological College. Whilst however, as the Dean says, he (the Dean) takes his seat as a member of the joint committee wholly unpledged on the question of the jurisdiction of the Provincial Synod, he and every member of the minority of the Synod are pledged to the strict observance of the honorable understanding entered into last Session, and in consequence of which that Synod deferred the action it would otherwise have taken; although after the allotted time has expired, this obligation on their part altogether ceases.

It is impossible to estimate how seriously the value and efficiency of all our church assemblies would be diminished, if any doubt whatever were cast upon the binding nature of such an understanding amongst its members, since a majority would in such a case have no choice but to use on every occasion its own legitimate power rather than run the risk of finding an *ad interim* arrangement declared to be informal or not binding. We gladly welcome the Dean's statement that he for one is sincerely desirous to see the question amicably settled, and wishes every success to the joint committee. This is the spirit in which the subject should be approached in September; and with such a spirit animating the members of the committee, we have little doubt that not only will it be possible to arrive at an amicable settlement, but that an arrangement so come to will prove of lasting service both to the Church and its various institutions throughout the Ecclesiastical Province.

#### WHITSUN-DAY.

The day appointed by the Church in commemoration of the fulfilment of the Saviour's promise and of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the waiting and expectant disciples again draws near; would that it might be kept with like prayerful and expectant spirit as at the first, and that the Church might be refreshed with new gifts of the Holy Ghost. It cannot be denied that the spirit of a *right judgment* is, for one thing, sadly needed, and for another, grace to act as that judgment directs. In how many places in our several dioceses is there need, too, for the enlivening, quickening and inspiring influences of the Holy Spirit! Let, then, due preparations be made for the careful celebration of this Holy Festival. Not alone that the Church and every member thereof may receive the blessed "unction from above," which is indeed "comfort life and fire of love," but also that it and they may more effectively "bear witness" to the truth. "If we pray and wait and believe the Spirit will come and fill the temple of our hearts."

O most Blessed Light Divine,  
Shine within these hearts of Thine,  
And our inmost being fill;  
Where Thou art not, man hath nought,  
Nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds; our strength renew;  
On our dryness pour Thy dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away;  
Bend the stubborn heart and will;  
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore  
And confess Thee, evermore  
In Thy sevenfold gifts descend:  
Give them virtue's sure reward,  
Give them Thy salvation, Lord,  
Give them joys that never end. Amen.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

THERE are one or two statements in the report of the Educational Council of the Montreal Theological College which are, to say the least, not strictly accurate. First it is not quite correct to make "Lennoxville University" (we pre-

sume Bishop's College, the University of the Dioceses of Montreal and Quebec is meant) bear the whole burden of the opposition to the movement for degree conferring power. Strong and persistent opposition was also made by both clergy and laity of the Diocese of Montreal. (2) The Educational Council strangely assume that the Church Synod (we presume it refers to the Diocesan Synod) "has no jurisdiction in the premises" — whereas the Legislature thought it had, and the promoters of the Bill virtually admitted the authority of this Body. If it has not, whence comes the title *Diocesan Theological College*? (3) It also sounds strange to read "This College is resolved as far as possible to maintain the independence of the Bishop of the diocese in the matter of clerical education" — in view of the peculiar clauses and conditions in the Gault and Turner Trusts, which rob the Bishop of any real control over the religious teaching of the Institution, and set up the opinion of two or more lay-popes as conclusive and final. Funny "independence" this surely! Perhaps, however, the words "as far as possible" have some reference to this limitation. (4) But stranger still and certainly not very creditable to those making it, is the statement: "the present position of the question is this, the Bishop has bound himself *personally* (NOT THE COLLEGE) not to sanction another application to the Legislature for the term of three years." The Bishop was President of the College at the time he gave the pledge; the pledge was given in order to avoid action upon a Resolution or Canon which, it was admitted by all, affected the College, and it alone; there were present in the Lower House of the Provincial Synod the Principal, the Dean, Archdeacon Evans, Canon Empson, Canon Mills and Messrs. Chas. Garth and James Hutton, all of whom, we believe, were then connected with the Institution, either as governors or as members of the Educational Council and teaching staff, and yet, so far as we can recollect, not a word of objection was made to the action of the President of the College; indeed, if our memory serves us aright, one of the laymen repudiated strongly the mere suggestion that the Bishop's action might be regarded as merely personal; and more than this, we have reason to believe, that a caucus of the members of Synod who were connected with the College and its friends was held, at which the action of the Bishop was virtually endorsed. We venture to say that had it not been understood that the Bishop's action bound the College the Canon would have been pressed through. We are amazed that such a statement should have been made in the presence of the Bishop and of others, who were members of Synod, without protest or objection. It seems to place him in the awkward position of having his action disavowed by the governing Body of the College over which he presides. We think that the statement will be received with unbounded astonishment by most, if not all, of those who in good faith accepted the pledge of His Lordship as binding on the College and consented to postpone the consideration of the Canon.

In this connection and also in view of the late attempt to obtain for Wycliffe College, Toronto, the power of granting degrees in divinity, and further in view of the extraordin-

ary misconception apparently prevailing in some quarters as to the effect and intent of the action taken by the Provincial Synod at its last meeting, the following circular issued a short time ago by the Bishops of the Church of England in the Province of Ontario will be read with interest, as expressing probably the views of the whole House of Bishops. All honor to these defenders of the rights of the Church.

#### DIVINITY DEGREES.

To the Reverend the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England, in the Province of Ontario:—

GREETING IN THE LORD.—It is right that you should learn immediately from the Bishops of the Church the course which they have deemed it their duty to pursue in relation to a clause in the University Federation Bill conveying to Theological Schools, now or hereafter affiliated to the University of Toronto, the right of conferring degrees in Divinity.

1. In September last the Provincial Synod, having before it a Canon fully and absolutely dealing with degrees in Divinity, instead of proceeding to immediate legislation, referred the subject to a committee, on the distinct understanding that no action would be taken by members of the Church of England in this matter until this committee reported to the next meeting of the Provincial Synod.

2. On this committee gentlemen officially connected with each of the three Universities and of the three Theological Colleges amongst us, were deliberately appointed by the Provincial Synod, to represent them, in order that full justice might be secured for the views and interests of all concerned.

3. This action of the Provincial Synod is a plain indication of the judgment of the Church amongst us that the regulation of the standing and degrees of her clergy in divinity is a matter purely domestic to herself, one in which the public generally and the government of the province can have no good reason or just ground for interfering, except at the duly expressed wish of the Church.

4. Should this clause be finally passed the Provincial Legislature will thereby be assuming to over-ride the authority of the Bishops and of the Provincial Synod of the Church in the management of her internal affairs, and by coercive legislation, and to impose upon her a pre-judgment of this question whilst in the course of settlement by her highest legislative body. Such a proceeding would be without precedent in the past history of this country, and a distinct violation of the rights of religious liberty enjoyed under the constitution of this country.

5. This Bishops of the Church of England in Ontario accordingly appeal to all the faithful members of the Church to unite with them in using every effort.

(a) To guard the Church against the proposed unsought interference of the State with its liberty and just right to regulate its own internal concerns.

(b) To secure that the compact arrived at in the Provincial Synod shall remain inviolate, and that the good faith which characterizes the dealings of Churchmen with each other shall not be impaired in a matter of solemn action on the part of the Provincial Synod.

6. The Bishops feel that they are, in their present course, maintaining a principle absolutely essential to the religious liberties of their fellow citizens without distinction of creed or denomination.

(Signed),  
ARTHUR TORONTO,  
E. ALGOMA,  
MAURICE S. HURON,  
CHARLES NIAGARA.

The Bishop of Ontario, who is absent in England, cabled his cordial agreement with the action of the Bishops.