

ment. "It is possible, though we cannot at present hope for complete and dogmatic reunion, that this action may result in the acceptance by the Eastern Orthodox Churches of Anglican Orders and other Sacraments. If that were the case it would hardly be possible to exaggerate the importance of the step that will have been gained. The effect of it will be to shift the whole balance of things in the Catholic world, and enormously to strengthen our own position not only with the East but also in relation to Western Christendom."—"Church Times").

The declaration sets forth "the genuine" teaching of the English Church. The English Church accepts the faith of the Undivided Church, as set forth in the Scriptures and Fathers, and reaffirmed by oecumenical councils. It affirms the independence of each "particular Church" in matters which are not essential; the supremacy of oecumenical councils and the binding nature of those dogmatic decisions that have been accepted by the whole Church. The number of Sacraments has never been formally determined but those of Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Orders, Matrimony and Unction are accepted as such specifically. The Apostolic Succession, transmitted by the laying on of hands of the Bishops is an essential necessity. The office of a priest is (a) to preach and teach the word of God; (b) to offer the unbloody Sacrifice of the Eucharist for both the living and the departed; (c) to absolve sinners; and (d) otherwise to minister to the spiritual needs of the flock of Christ. In the Blessed

Sacrament, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, the elements are changed and become the true Body and the true Blood of Christ, and as such are given to and received by the faithful. The English Church defines neither the manner nor mode of this change. It is a Divine mystery which passes human understanding. The English Church honors the Mother of Our Lord and the Saints departed and we should ask for their intercession.

The Russian Church.

A great deal has been written recently on the position of the Russian Church and its treatment by Sovietism. Put shortly the Patriarch Tikhon has a splendid and wonderful influence in Russia. The Soviet requisitioned all Church property, ostensibly for the relief of famine. Tikhon offered a large amount for this purpose but the Soviets demanded the surrender of all they might demand. It was well known that only an infinitesimal portion was really to be devoted to relief, the rest was to be used for political and military purposes. The demands of the Soviets were refused. Large numbers of priests were put to death. Bands of soldiers raided the churches and killed those who resisted them. The Patriarch, defending the Archbishop of Moscow and other clergy, was himself included in the charge of defying the Soviets. He declared the Church's treasures belonged not to the State but to God. The authorities of all Christian de-

nominations in Europe, including the Pope, have protested in the name of Christianity against the robbery of the Church and the massacre of the clergy. The Soviets sent a most insulting reply.

One of the latest moves of the Soviets is to organise a party among the few in the Church who approve of Sovietism. This party is to demand, on behalf of the Church, establishment, and, in return, to offer to submit to disendowment. When the Church is "established" the bishops and other clergy are to be appointed by the State, and so the Church will become an instrument of the Soviets for securing the submission of the people. Soviet morals and Soviet politics are evidence that Sovietism has really in view the destruction of Christianity. The latest move is to do from within what has never and cannot be accomplished by persecution from without.

The Bishop has appointed a Committee to arrange for the holding of a Choir Festival in the Cathedral. The date of the festival has not yet been fixed. The following are the committee:—The Very Rev. the Dean, the Revs. Canon Butterfield, T. Fisher and R. T. Hall, and Mr P. Tombs, the Cathedral organist.

The Rev. A. Shardlow, B.A., is expected to arrive from England early in November. He will take charge of the brotherhood of three clergy to work Wairoa and Country District.

The Rev. Bertram Brierley has been appointed Assistant Curate at St. Augustine's, Napier. He will begin his duties there after Synod.

Thy continual help, that Thy Church may joyfully serve Thee in all godly quietness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Light.

O God at whose commanding word light first sprang from darkness, we pray for the spreading of that light till the day break and the shadows flee away. Send light into our inmost souls we pray, lest some cherished sin shut Thine ears to our prayer. Let the sunshine of Thy love stir our sterile natures into fruitfulness and win from our stubborn soil a plenteous harvest of heavenly grain. Illumine the unknown tracts of our natures that hidden powers may come to light and yield their service to Thy kingdom. Shed light upon the dark places of the earth that the habitations of violence may be destroyed, let human misery melt away before the rising of the sun of Righteousness. Grant light upon the problems that perplex the mind of men, dispel the night of doubt and fear, and for the eyes that wait may morning dawn, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Intercession at Holy Communion.

(English Hymnal, 308).

Father, see Thy children, bending at Thy throne,

Pleading here the Passion of Thine only Son,

Pleading here before Thee all His dying Love,

As He pleads it ever in the Courts above.

Not for our wants only we this offering plead,

But for all Thy children who Thy mercy need.

Bless Thy faithful people, win Thy wandering sheep,

Keep the Souls departed who in Jesus sleep.

For Jerusalem and the East Mission.

O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour: We beseech Thee to direct and prosper the mission of Thy Church amongst the people of Thy land; that they may seek Thy salvation, and attain to the inheritance of Thy promises.

Let Thy continual pity cleanse and defend the branches of Thy Catholic

Church; and grant that, walking in the light of Thy Truth, we may come together into that Unity which Thy Son has declared to be His Will: to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be glory in the Church, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Governor and Parliament (during the Session).

Almighty God, from whom all power is derived, we humbly beseech Thee to bless Thy servant the Governor of this Dominion. Enlighten him with Thy grace, encompass him with Thy favor, and grant that he may use the authority which our Sovereign Lord the King hath committed into his hands with justice and mercy, according to Thy Holy will. Give Thy blessing, also, we pray Thee, to the Parliament now in session; direct their consultations to the advancement of Thy glory, the good of Thy Church, and the welfare of this people. Hear us, O Merciful Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.