DIVINITY DEGREES. INDEPENDENT BODY ASKED FOR.

MELBORNE, APRIL 20.

A deputation representing various religious denominations to-day waited upon the Premier (Mr. Murray), and asked that an independent body be created to confer degrees in divinity. Archdeacon Clark said the University Council, to which the matter had been referred by the Government, following upon previous representations from the religious denominations, thought the conferring of degrees would impose a burden upon the University. The suggestion had, however, been made by the University, that power should be given to some independent body to confer the degrees. The deputation spoke with a unanimity that was unprecedented, for it included the Protestant, Catholic, Hebrew, and Jewish religions.

JOSEPH FISHER LECTURE.

The authorities of the Adelaide University are doing all in their power to provide commercial education, and for the purpose of carrying out the study of banking and commerce at the University the late Mr. Joseph Fisher gave £600. This year the Chamber of Commerce made a grant of £200. For the past three years the Lampreys have provided that in every alternate year a lecture on some subject, to be chosen by the "Joseph Fisher lecture," shall be delivered at the University. At the last, by Russell, F. R. Sanderson, another valuable lecture o. The list on Friday evening, when he delivered a large audience, the end of a month and a half of the course of study. The title of his discourse was "Banking is a factor in the development of trade and commerce."

The chair was occupied by Mr. A. W. P. Bowden, and many of the leading bankers and merchants of the city were present and sat close to the platform.

Mr. French said in his modern conception a bank was an institution, or institution, having a defined status by the law in personam, and not a body corporate, under the authority of domicile, and it was generally considered that the only concern of the whole concern was that the capital should represent a straight investment of the capital engagements it undertook. It is impossible for a concern to invest capital and not have it under the same conditions as the bank. The speaker traced the relation which existed between a merchant and banking and the capital to which the latter has been added as a capital-creating factor in connection with the former. Beginning with the Goldsmiths, he traced the gradual changes along to the establishment of the Bank of England, first district, and then the Bank of England itself, in its present state. He then went on to the Bank of England, and the way in which it was a factor in the development of the British Empire. The speaker pointed out that the Bank of England was not to be regarded as a bank, and the corporation was not engaged in any direct trading operations, but held, as its stock, large amounts of gold and bullion, and was permitted to hold a certain amount of valuable paper—and bullion. Likewise the Bank of England advanced loans upon securities of all kinds, and it was a bank of issue. The discussion then turned to the Banking Act, and the question of the future of the banks of issue.

The speaker reviewed the position of the banks of issue and the Banking Act, and the question of the future of the banks of issue.