

**THE CONTINENTAL  
REFORMATION IN GERMANY,  
FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND  
FROM THE BIRTH OF LUTHER TO  
THE DEATH OF CALVIN**

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The continental reformation in Germany, France and Switzerland from the birth of Luther to the death of Calvin by Alfred Plummer

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**ALFRED PLUMMER**

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# THE CONTINENTAL REFORMATION

IN GERMANY, FRANCE AND  
SWITZERLAND

FROM THE BIRTH OF LUTHER TO  
THE DEATH OF CALVIN

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## PREFACE

THIS little volume reproduces the substance, and for the most part the exact words, of four lectures which were delivered to clergy at Oxford in July, 1911, and which have appeared, in a somewhat abbreviated form, as a series of papers in *The Churchman*, October, 1911–May, 1912. What was omitted there has been restored here, and considerable additions have been made, in some places to the text, and in many places to the notes. For lack of time, very few of the notes were read when the lectures were delivered. At the conclusion of the course, the lecturer was asked by some who had heard him whether what he had said would be published, and he was unable at the time to make any certain reply. The papers in *The Churchman* were a partial response to that suggestion, and the present volume is a more complete response. For convenience, the first three lectures have each of them been divided into two sections, and the fourth lecture has been divided into three.

The purpose of the book is identical with the purpose of the lectures, viz. to increase interest in an

important subject, and to induce those who know something about it to increase their knowledge by further study. During the last fifty years many minds in many Christian communions have been scandalized by our unhappy divisions and antagonisms, and many hearts have been yearning for the reunion of Christendom, or if reunion be impossible, for the peace of the Church. These feelings are yearly increasing in intensity and volume, and, if they are to bear fruit, those who are conscious of them must endeavour to find out what were the causes which produced and deepened the divisions. One chief cause has been, and still is, the prejudice which is born of ignorance—ignorance of the faults of our own side, and ignorance of the just claims which can be made by those who differ from us. Study of the great crisis which we call the Reformation will do something towards removing this prejudice. It is the truth, and the truth only, that can set us free, and make us ready for the fulfilment of the Saviour's prayer, "that they may be one."

It will be noticed that the large majority of the references in this book are to modern works. The reason for this is twofold. To the students for whom the book is intended, references to works which can be easily procured are more likely to be useful than references to original authorities which are less accessible. Secondly, references to original authorities have to a very large extent been ren-