THE HISTORY AND USE OF CREEDS AND ANATHEMAS IN THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE CHURCH; THE CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LXXXY

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The History and Use of Creeds and Anathemas in the Early Centuries of the Church; The Church Historical Society, LXXXV by Cuthbert Hamilton Turner

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CUTHBERT HAMILTON TURNER

THE HISTORY AND USE OF CREEDS AND ANATHEMAS IN THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE CHURCH; THE CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, LXXXY



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LXXXV.

The History and Use of Creeds
and Anathemas
in the
Early Centuries of the Church.

BY

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FELLOW OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD

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The Committee of the Church Historical Society wish it to be understood that expressions of personal opinion in this paper are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Society.

ADVERTISEMENT

An outline of the following paper was read at a Theological Society in Oxford in May, 1905: of its present expanded form the first two and a half chapters were written for the annual meeting of the Church Historical Society on February 15, 1906. The appendix of documents and authorities has been added in deference to the advice of friends.

If there is anything novel in the paper, it is perhaps the attempt to bring liturgical evidence to bear, more directly than has (it would seem) been hitherto done, upon the history of the Creeds. The writer has no first-hand acquaintance with liturgiology: but he is fortunate in being able to appeal in any difficulty to his colleagues the Rev. H. A. Wilson and the Rev. F. E. Brightman. He has further to acknowledge the kindness of another expert, his friend Dom Germain Morin, to whom is due some welcome assistance in the last chapter. For the conclusions reached he himself is alone responsible.

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THE HISTORY AND USE OF CREEDS AND ANATHEMAS IN THE EARLY CENTURIES OF THE CHURCH

If it is one main part of the business of historians to draw from the study of the past material that may help men in coming to a right judgement upon the problems of the present, the subject which, with the sanction of your Committee, I have selected for discussion this afternoon will surely commend itself to you as appropriate. For as English churchmen we cannot, if we would, be blind to the fact that the question of the public recitation of the Athanasian Creed is one of the burning questions of our day: and it would seem to be incumbent on us who are members of the Church Historical Society, not indeed to undervalue those general considerations which may appeal to churchmen at large, but to approach this as well as other burning questions in the temper that is willing to plead for suspense of judgement until the facts of history have been ascertained and its