

**CHRISTIAN CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS:  
A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE  
SYMBOLICAL BOOKS OF THE CHURCHES  
AND SECTS OF CHRISTENDOM AND OF  
THE DOCTRINES DEPENDENT ON THEM**

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Christian Creeds and Confessions: A Short Account of the Symbolical Books of the Churches and Sects of Christendom and of the Doctrines Dependent on Them by G. A. Gumlich

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**G. A. GUMLICH**

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*A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE SYMBOLICAL  
BOOKS OF THE CHURCHES AND SECTS  
OF CHRISTENDOM AND OF THE  
DOCTRINES DEPENDENT  
ON THEM*

BY

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## AUTHOR'S PREFACE

AT a time when Church questions agitate wide circles,—for the old strife between Church and State, between Protestantism and Romanism, has again broken out,—and when, even in the Evangelical Church itself, there is a combat between parties involving the very right of each other's existence, an attempt to set down clearly and conclusively fundamental and distinctive doctrines needs no apology. Many who formerly perhaps thought that they had no cause to busy themselves with such searching questions will now feel their need to make themselves better acquainted with the principles and doctrines of the Christian Churches, since they may, as officials of the State or of the Church, or as representatives of the people or of congregations, have to decide or at least give their votes on ecclesiastical matters. By such people a thorough and objective explanation of the confessional doctrines founded on the Creeds and Symbolical books themselves will be valued, and such a work this is intended to be.

It seemed necessary to add a short account of the characteristics of the most important sects, because, since

*Freedom of Religion* has become a fundamental principle in the constitution of all civilised States, they have gained a greater importance and more significance than formerly.

It may be doubtful whether the scholastic form of this exposition will please all readers, but at any rate it will be welcome to such as wish for a compendium on the Symbolical Books.

BERLIN, 22nd May 1878.

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PREFACE TO THE SECOND AND THIRD  
EDITIONS

As this little work has found friendly acceptance with students as a compendium of the Creeds and Confessions, we trust that this new thoroughly revised (though essentially unaltered) edition will be useful to many.

BERLIN, December 1888 and March 1893.

## TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE

THERE are several very able works on the Creeds, such as those of Lumby and Swainson, to which I would refer those who wish a fuller account than can be given in a small manual like the present. I am unaware however of any work that gives such a full account of the Confessions or *Libri Symbolici*, or such a clear explanation of the doctrines which divide the Churches and sects. I will therefore offer no apology for introducing to English readers the work of Professor Gumlich. It is written in a thoroughly impartial spirit—at least, as impartial as is possible for one with prepossessions of his own.





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