

the latter part of the same century, the divinity of the Holy Spirit was denied by some, this rising heresy was met, in a general Church Council, by restating, recording and publishing the Scriptural doctrine touching this all-important subject. Then, when the church had become corrupt, and the Protestant movement began, it was necessary for the Protestants to issue a creed—called the “Augsburg Confession of Faith”—to meet and answer the misrepresentations of enemies, and to define authoritatively the distinctive tenets of the Protestant Church. And when amid the light of Protestantism, errors and heresies began to grow and spread, new articles of faith were needed to check these new errors and heresies. Indeed, the necessity of such creeds for such purposes, has been so generally admitted, that they have scarcely needed defence till these “last days.”

Moreover, if a church is established in China, or India, or any other heathen country, a creed must be adapted to the circumstances and exigencies of that particular church, by presenting conspicuously the testimony of the Bible against the sin of idolatry and the sins of paganism.

(5.) *A creed exhibits to the world in a concise and connected form, a summary of doctrines most important and vital, but scattered throughout the Bible.*

The Bible is not written in a convenient shape to answer the purposes of a creed. The most vital truths are presented in the Bible, as the most vital truths are presented in nature—not grouped and classified, but scattered and fragmentary, though in both cases, harmonious and divinely beautiful. No one department of nature makes a complete revelation of truth. On no single leaf, nor stone, nor shell, nor star, do you find an analysis or table