

Creed in the Utrecht Psalter, and on the 13th of September, 1872, a copy was transmitted to the Master of the Rolls from the Foreign Office, which had been forwarded by the Curators of the University of Utrecht, together with a memorandum prepared by the librarian of that university respecting the probable age of the manuscript, and of the miniatures and illuminations. On the receipt of these, the Master of the Rolls desired me to prepare a report to him on the Utrecht Manuscript, which I have done. It is entitled, 'The Athanasian Creed in connection with the Utrecht Psalter,' and has annexed to it photographs of the Athanasian and Apostles' Creeds in the Utrecht Psalter. In my report I have given reasons for coming to the following conclusions:—That the date of the manuscript may be assigned to the close of the sixth century; that there are no sufficiently valid objections against this date; and that as the Utrecht Psalter is a Gallican, and not a Roman, Psalter, objections to it based upon the Roman usage are of no force."

We give the following commencement and ending of the original text of the Creed in question copied from the Utrecht Psalter:—

INCIPIIT FIDES CATHOLICAM.  
 QUICUNQUE VULT  
 SALVUS ESSE ANTE OMNIA  
 OPUS EST UT TENEAT CATHO-  
 LICAM FIDEM.  
 \* \* \* \* \*  
 HAEC EST FIDES CATHOLICA  
 QUAM NISI QVISQUE FIDE  
 LITER FIRMITERQUE CREDI  
 DERIT SALVUS ESSE NON PO-  
 TERIT.

#### THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION.

29.—*Can any of your readers give me a terse and accurate account of the Augsburg Confession, together with the circumstances under which it was drawn up and set forth?*

WALTER W. ELLYS.

The Augsburg Confession is the chief standard of faith in the Lutheran Church. It took its origin in the following manner. When Charles V. was Emperor of Germany, he called a council together, A.D. 1530, in order to bring to terms of settlement the opposing religious parties, the separation of whom had taken place some thirteen or fourteen years before. This assembly met at Augsburg, one of the cities of Germany. Charles V. demanded from the Protestants an account of the doctrines in which they had departed from the Catholic Church. Accordingly, Luther and the Wittenberg theologians were authorized by the elector, John of Saxony, to draw up articles of faith,

and lay them before the Emperor at Torgau, a town in Prussia. They took as their basis, articles which had been signed in the previous year, by conferences held at Marburg, and Schwabach, against the doctrines of Zwingli. Melancthon, Luther's fellow-labourer in the Reformation, from these articles compiled a document, with the advice of Protestant theologians and others, which he at first called an "Apology," but which subsequently took the name of the "Augsburg Confession." They were written in German and Latin, and the author struggled very hard to improve it, in order to present it to the Emperor, June 25, 1530.

The object of it was, to state the belief of the Lutheran Protestants, proving, at the same time, that the accusations brought against them by the Catholics were false; and also to attempt to lay a foundation for measures of reconciliation. This document, signed by a number of people, was read before the Emperor Charles V., June 25, 1530. Subsequently, Melancthon made several alterations, especially concerning the article on the Lord's Supper, in which he endeavoured to unite the Lutherans and Calvinists. The result soon followed, and much controversy took place between the two parties.

It is uncertain whether the present form of the confession, as used by the Protestant Churches of Germany, can be identified with the unaltered one, as the two original copies laid before the council are lost.

I. T. W. C.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS, AND REPLIES.

*Can you, or any of your readers, give me the words of the Bidding Prayer, used before the Dampton Lectures and University Sermons, in St. Mary's Church, Oxford, and tell me whether any part of it could be quoted as an authority for Prayers for the Dead?* AVERIL.

The following is from an old Bidding Prayer used at Oxford, as well as in a parish church in Oxfordshire, from A.D. 1795 to A.D. 1841:—"We commend also unto Thy mercy, O Lord, all other Thy servants who are departed hence with the sign of faith, and now rest in the sleep of death. Grant unto them, we beseech Thee, Thy mercy and everlasting peace, that at the general resurrection, we and all they of the mystical body of Thy Son, may together be set on His right hand, and hear that His most joyful voice, Come ye blessed of My Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."—ED. P. P.