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**On Creeds and Confessions.**

2 Timothy, I. 13. *Hold fast the form of sound words.*

The term Creed, is derived from the Latin *credere*, to believe, and it signifies a digest of truths received and believed. The Creed of a particular Church, is a collection of the truths received and believed by that Church. In every age, the Church of Christ has had her Creed, which her own experience has led her to adopt. Different names have been given to these Synopses of the truth, such as, *Symbol*, which signifies, either a collection of truths, or a sign, or mark, or badge, by which Christians are distinguished from others; a *Canon* or rule of faith; but Creed is the name most commonly given to these compends of Christian doctrine.

The first acknowledged creed, was that given by our Lord himself, recorded in the gospel according to Matthew (xxviii. 19.) "Go, teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." To this short and simple compend of Christian doctrine, which is the formula of Baptism, the Fathers were wont to appeal, as the ground-work of their faith; and it may be very properly regarded, as an epitome of the whole of revealed truth.

As many minds were exercised in expounding the articles of this Creed, and as the truth was misapprehended, or opposed, it became necessary to introduce clauses, explanatory of the original articles; or to draw up a more particular formula of doctrine. An example of this seems to be given in i. Tim. iii. 16, "without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh; justified in the spirit; seen of angels; preached unto the Gentiles; believed on in the world; received up into glory." Which may be viewed as an epitome of the truth respecting the second article of the creed.

There are numerous expressions to be met with in the Epistles of Paul, which, altho' they may be understood, to comprehend the whole of what he taught the churches, either by word, or by writing; yet are considered by many, to have a more particular reference; such as i. Tim. iv. 6. "nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine whereunto thou hast attained." Whitty considers the following expressions as referring