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Recent Ecclesiastical Researches in
Holland.

By E. T. CORWIN, D. D.

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THE *worth of contemporary documents* for the writing of history needs no discussion. The zeal of Americans in searching out and accumulating such material has steadily increased since the opening of the Nineteenth Century. Historical societies have sprung up, representing States or portions of States, groups of States or the nation, particular denominations or the Church at large. Such societies exist for the sake of collecting and preserving contemporary documents, or of securing specially prepared papers, to elucidate particular points of history, or to stimulate to greater diligence in the historic field. Thousands of valuable documents have thus been rescued from oblivion or destruction, and many of them published, leading to new investigations, fresh expositions of history, and still further discoveries of material.

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THE SEVERAL EDITIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

By HENRY C. McCOOK.

It is hoped that the following notes will throw some light upon the confusion concerning the various editions of the Confession of Faith of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The writer believes that he has all the early and important editions, of which brief descriptions are here given. The notes are wholly bibliographical, and no attempt is made to point out the doctrinal and textual differences between the Westminster Standards and the original Cumberland Synod, and the more radical changes in the final (revised) edition. No doubt this will be done in the most valuable papers of Prof. B. B. Warfield, of Princeton, on the "Printing of the Westminster Confession," now appearing (1901-2) in the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review*:

No. 1. [First Edition, 1815.] The | Constitution | of the | Cumberland Presbyterian Church | in the | United States of America : | Containing | The Confession of Faith, A Catechism, The | Government and Discipline, and | the Directory for the | Worship of God. | Ratified and adopted by the Synod of Cumber | land, held at Sugg's Creek in Tennessee | state, April the 5th, 1814, and continued by | adjournments, until the 9th of the same month. | Nashville,, T. | Printed by M. & J. Norvell, | For the Publishers. | 1815.

12mo, 6½ in. x 3¾ in.; block, 5 in. x 2¾ in., pp. vi + 154. The Table of Contents (2 pp.) follows the preface. This is the editio princeps of the Constitution (Confession of Faith) of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Confession was adopted in 1814, but no edition appears to have been printed until 1815. According to John M. Gaut, Esq., of Nashville, to whom the writer is indebted for much information, the persons best informed on the subject state that the edition of 1815 is the first one. The house of M. & J. Norvell, whose imprint is on the title-page, went out of existence many years ago, and no information is available from that quarter. All the known editions of this branch of the Church were printed south of Mason and Dixon's

line, although the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was not divided during the war for the Union or at any other time.

In 1862, Nashville, which had been the publication centre, was evacuated by the Confederate forces, and remained within the Federal lines continuously until the close of the war. The meetings of the General Assembly during the Civil War were all held in the north, and the publication work was removed to Pittsburg, and there continued until 1867, when it was restored to Nashville. No imprint of the Confession was made while the publication work of the Church remained at Pittsburg, although some other books were printed there.

The title-page of this edition is backed by a page of errata; the next two pages have the original address, "To the Christian Reader," and the two following have the Table of Contents. The proof texts are simply cited at the foot of the page. Only the Shorter Catechism (as modified) is printed, as in all subsequent editions.

No. 2. [Second Edition, 1821.] The | Constitution | of the | Cumberland Presbyterian Church, | in the | United States of America : | Containing | The Confession of Faith, a Catechism, The | Government and Discipline, And | the Directory for the | Worship of God. | Ratified and adopted by the Synod of Cumberland, held | at Sugg's creek, in Tennessee state. April the 5th, | 1814, and continued by adjournments, until the 9th of | the same month. | Russellville. | Printed by Charles Rhea, | For the Publishers. | 1821.

Small 8vo, 7 in. x 4½ in.; block, 6 in. x 3½ in.; pp. 3+127+3. This is substantially a reprint of the princeps, with a new Table of Contents which is appended, and the omission of the page of errata.

No. 3. [Third Edition, 1830? First under the General Assembly.] The | Constitution | of the | Cumberland Presbyterian | Church | In the U. States of America, | Containing | The Confession of Faith——(torn)—— The Government and (torn)——. | Directory for —— (torn)——

18mo, 5½ in. x 2¾ in.; block, 4½ in. x 2½ in.; pp. 177+3 of Contents. The date is believed to be 1830, the year following the organization of the General Assembly at Princeton, Ky., which change required a change in the form of government. This small edition follows the text of the princeps of 1815, and proof texts are simply cited at the foot of pages. The prefatory matter is abridged, and its caption changed by placing "Preface to the First Edition" above the old caption, "To the Christian Reader." The Table of Contents is transferred to the Appendix.

No. 4. [1837.] Title page wanting in copy in hand, probably as in No. 3. 12mo, 5¾ in. x 3¾ in.; block, 4½ in. x 2¾ in.; pp. vi, 286. This edition which was probably (almost certainly) issued in 1837, presents the familiar appearance of the 12mo Confessions of the Presbyterian Church. The prefatory matter is similar to but somewhat changed from that of the 18mo edition (1830?), and like it contains the sentence, "By comparing this Confession with the Presbyterian, the reader will learn wherein they differ. Some chapters are identical; others, remodeled." The proof texts for the first time appear in full. The Table of Contents again appears immediately after the preface as in the first edition, and the caption of the abridged prefatory address is simply "Preface."

No. 5. [1861.] The | Confession of Faith | of the | Cumberland Presbyterian Church | in the | United States of America. | Revised and Adopted by the General Assem | bly, at Princeton, Ky., May, 1829. | Nashville, Tenn.: | Board of Publication of the Cumberland | Presbyterian Church. | 1861.

12mo, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; block, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.; pp. iv, 272. This edition in form and matter resembles that of 1837 (No. 4), but is from different plates. The general title is here changed from "Constitution" to "Confession of Faith," probably for the first time.

No. 6. [1875.] "The Confession," etc., pp. 286. Title, form and folio as in No. 5, with change of imprint to | "Nashville, Tenn.: | Cumberland Presbyterian Publishing House. | T. C. Blake, D. D., Publishing Agent, | 41 Union St. | 1875." | There is added a "Manual" adopted at Murfreesboro, Tenn., May, 1869.

No. 7. Confession of Faith | and | Government | of the | Cumberland Presbyterian Church | (Revised) | Adopted 1883. | Nashville, Tenn.: | Cumberland Presbyterian Publishing House. | 1896. |

6 in. x 4 in.; block, 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. x 3 in.; pp. iv, 196, including an Index of the "Creed of the Church" and an Index of the "Law of the Church." In this last edition the characteristic features of the original Westminster Confession are obliterated, and even those of the previous authorized editions of the Cumberland Confession are almost abandoned. It is a new bibliographical species; almost a new genus. The general title remains, "The Confession," etc., thus differing from both the Presbyterian Churches North (U. S. A.) and South (U. S.), which adhere to "Constitution," etc. As in all previous forms, the Larger Catechism is excluded; this, therefore, forms no part of the doctrinal symbols of the Cumberland Church.