

Church History (Sr.). 1

that he had anything more than a nominal supremacy over them, which refused to give him authority to interfere with them but when it came to honor they recognized him as the leading man in honor in the west and it was very easy for him to start making statements, more than he ever had before, which would claim to have the authority over the whole empire. On the other hand the Bishop of Constantinople, while they had about reached the point where they were ready to give up their claim to be over the whole of Christendom, they felt that they were just as important in the East as the Bishop of Rome was in the West. So there you have that which would inevitably lead to clash. Now the thing came to a head beginning about 858, A. D. At that time you have a very learned and capable man becoming patriarch of Constantinople named Photias, and Photias comes in, being placed in there by the emperor when he has removed the previous patriarch, and patriarch appeals to the Bishop of Rome against the emperor. Well this didn't predispose Photias to think well of the Bishop of Rome. There's quite a struggle between the two that we don't need to go into in detail. The Roman church decided in favor of Ignatius and pronounced a sentence of deposition against Photias, and so Photias and he deposes the Bishop of Rome. Each of them thus has declared his declaration of opposition to the other, and so Photius, in 867, sent an letter to the Eastern patriarch in which he declared that the whole Western church was heretical and schismatic, because he said,—he gave a number of reasons. One was that missionaries from the Eastern church had converted the Bulgarians and now the Western church was claiming authority over it, which was schismatic. Also the Western church was fasting on Saturday, at this time, which he said was wrong. They were beginning lent, he said, a week too late. They were taking milk, cheese and butter during lent, which he said was a traverse .

They were forbidding their clergy to marry while he felt that the lower clergy should be entitled to marry and most of all, he said, the Western church had corrupted the Nicaean creed by introducing a new term into it. It's a Latin word filioque, and many people get the impression that the split between East and West was primarily over the word filioque . Well now this word is, as you see, something simply that was seized upon as a point of argument between the two. It certainly is not the real cause of the