

suspense over the affairs of the reformation. The force and character of these interims were somewhat determined by the strength of the participating parties and it is not in our province to discuss them all at this time. The Nuremberg agreement of 1532 was nearly standard. A religious truce was declared between the Romanists and the Evangelicals so that both could join to fight the Turks...a menace to all. The Concord of Wittenberg in 1536 gave more credit to the second diet of Speier but nothing permanent could be effected by these. Luther hated them the Emperor was not happy with them, but they were affairs of state that could not be avoided unless there had been a general settling of the issues. A number of affairs were important during this period and we mention the following several items:

The Schmalkaldic League

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In 1531, following the difficulties at Augsburg and the uncertainty of interim arrangements, the evangelical states banded together in a league formed at Schmalkald under the general leadership of Philip of Hesse. The federation was a loose-knit affair with only the promise of protection if attacked for the faith. While not tight in structure, it still formed a unit that the emperor could not face with impunity. So long as it held itself firm, there was some semblance of military security for the German states of the reformation. With the military compact came a number of doctrinal statements: the Articles of Schmalkald. These tended to identify the Lutheran evangelicals more particularly as a religious entity.

But the League of Schmalkald underwent two disastrous events. The first concerned Philip of Hesse and a bigamous situation in which Luther advised him to lie about it and to proceed. (Discussed in greater detail later) This cost the league its moral and economic leadership...confidence in Philip being cast aside. The second came in Saxony with the defection of the ruler of Ducal Saxony to the side of the Emperor.

Moritz of Saxony defected to the Roman cause in 1546. Ducal Saxony, after the death of George, had followed Electoral Saxony in the Lutheran cause and was a strong reformation supporter. The causes of Moritz' defection are not clear...principle, however does not seem to have been among them. His defection broke the military heart of the Schmalkald league and allowed the Emperor to launch an attack on