

# **THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649179039

The Apostolic Fathers by H. S. Holland

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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**H. S. HOLLAND**

**THE APOSTOLIC  
FATHERS**



THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS.

The Fathers for English Readers.

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THE  
APOSTOLIC FATHERS.

BY

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STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

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PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE TRACT COMMITTEE.

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LONDON:  
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,  
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, CHARING CROSS, W.C.;  
43, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.;  
26, ST. GEORGE'S PLACE, HYDE PARK CORNER, S.W.  
BRIGHTON: 135, NORTH STREET.  
NEW YORK: E. & J. B. YOUNG & CO.

## PREFACE TO THE SERIES.

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WHILE all those who pretend to the character of educated people would be ashamed to be ignorant of the history of Greece and Rome, the lives and achievements of the great men of these countries, and the works of their chief writers, it is to be feared that they content themselves often with a very slight knowledge of the History of the Christian Church and of the illustrious Ecclesiastics who have exercised so vast an influence upon the institutions and manners, the literature and philosophy, as well as the religion of modern Europe.

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## THE APOSTOLIC FATHERS.



### THE APOSTOLIC AGE.

PLATO, when he found himself in trouble from the eager and many-sided inquiries of his friends about the first principles of the moral life, turned his eyes away from the confusions of the inner individual soul, to gaze at the grander outlines of Human Society, in order that he might more easily catch sight of, and more securely seize, in that larger system, the characteristics of those laws, which built up the moral life at once of the individual and of the state. We are prone, in our day, to do the reverse. History, for us, has become such a complicated record—the life of states, the sequence of nations, have shown themselves to be problems of such infinite complexity, that we shrink back, appalled and confused, from the sight of the crowded forces that play and work, and act and re-act and counteract, in endless variety and unceasing change, above and beneath, within and without, moulding and welding that intricate whole, the living fabric of a civilized society. Our