

**THE DEFENDERS OF THE
FAITH; OR, THE CHRISTIAN
APOLOGISTS OF THE SECOND
AND THIRD CENTURIES**

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The defenders of the faith; Or, The Christian apologists of the second and third centuries by F. Watson

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F. WATSON

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AND THIRD CENTURIES**

The Fathers for English Readers.

THE
DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH;

OR,

THE CHRISTIAN APOLOGISTS OF THE
SECOND AND THIRD CENTURIES.

BY

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PREFACE.

THE aim of this book has been to combine together, in a connected form, and in a graphic manner, the main points of the arguments urged on behalf of the Christians by the numerous Apologists of the second and third centuries. Their writings have a considerable interest and importance for us, for it is from them we learn the moral and religious condition of the world at the coming of our Lord. They picture to us the faith, and hope, and patient endurance of the early Christians. In their time the Church and the world were open enemies, and they describe the bitter struggle which ended in the victory of the Church.

There is little in this book which has not been derived from the works of the Apologists themselves, and the Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius; but the author has also to express his obligations to the following books:—

Döllinger's 'Jew and Gentile in the Court of Christ.'

Lecky's 'European Morals.'

Blunt's 'History of the First Three Centuries.'

Westcott's 'History of the Canon of the New Testament.'

Neander's 'History of the Christian Church.'

(The references are to Bohn's edition.)

It must also be stated that the translations of the passages quoted have been mainly derived from the translation of the ante-Nicene Fathers, published by T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh.

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