

**A LIBRARY OF FATHERS OF THE HOLY  
CATHOLIC CHURCH, ANTERIOR TO THE  
DIVISION OF THE EAST AND WEST; THE  
FESTAL EPISTLES OF S. ATHANASIUS,  
BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649582402

A Library of Fathers of the Holy Catholic Church, Anterior to the Division of the East and West;  
The Festal Epistles of S. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria by Athanasius

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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# **ATHANASIUS**

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A  
LIBRARY OF FATHERS

OF THE

HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,

ANTERIOR TO THE DIVISION OF THE EAST AND WEST:

TRANSLATED BY MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.



YET SHALL NOT THY TEACHERS BE REMOVED INTO A CORNER ANY MORE, BUT  
THINE EYES SHALL SEE THY TEACHERS. *Isaiah xxx. 30.*

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OXFORD,  
JOHN HENRY PARKER;  
F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.  
MDCCLIV.

TO THE MEMORY  
OF THE  
MOST REVEREND FATHER IN GOD  
WILLIAM  
LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,  
PRIMATE OF ALL ENGLAND,  
FORMERLY REGIUS PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD,  
THIS LIBRARY  
OF  
ANCIENT BISHOPS, FATHERS, DOCTORS, MARTYRS, CONFESSORS,  
OF CHRIST'S HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH,  
UNDERTAKEN AMID HIS ENCOURAGEMENT,  
AND  
CARRIED ON FOR TWELVE YEARS UNDER HIS SANCTION,  
UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE HENCE IN PEACE,  
IS  
GRATEFULLY AND REVERENTLY  
INSCRIBED.



Athanasius, Saint, Patriarch  
of Alexandria  
THE

FESTAL EPISTLES

OF

S. ATHANASIUS,

BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA,

*TRANSLATED FROM THE SYRIAC,*

WITH NOTES AND INDICES.

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OXFORD,

JOHN HENRY PARKER;

F. AND J. RIVINGTON, LONDON.

MDCCLIV.



BV 4259  
A7

BAKES, PRINTER, OXFORD.

## PREFACE.

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THE Festal Epistles of S. Athanasius, as far as they are extant, are now, for the first time, presented to the English reader. In undertaking to superintend the publication of them, the Editor was, to some extent, aware of the difficulty of the task. In carrying it out, he has not hesitated to make numerous and important alterations in the translation as put into his hands, and not a few passages have been entirely re-modelled by him. He must, therefore, be held responsible for the errors contained in the following pages.

The translation had been prepared for the Press, and most of the notes written, when a German version by Professor Larsow made its appearance. To the general accuracy of this, the Editor bears his willing testimony. The English has been carefully compared with it, and several emendations have, in consequence, been introduced. On the other hand, a different rendering has been adopted in many cases, and errors have not unfrequently been corrected. Some of these will be found pointed out in the notes.

Considerable pains have been bestowed in collecting parallel passages from other undoubted works of S. Athanasius\*; while, in more than one instance, evidence has been adduced bearing upon the authenticity of some treatises concerning which doubts have been entertained. The Scriptural references have, in all cases, been carefully

\* The edition used is the Bened. Patavii 1777.

given, and any remarkable deviation from the received text noted.

Manifest errors of the Syriac translator have been shewn, and their origin sometimes detected. Any conjectural emendation has been scrupulously proposed as such. Whenever a difficulty has presented itself, the Editor has examined the original Ms. in the British Museum, and the result of this recension of the text will be found in the notes. It could not have been expected, notwithstanding the extreme care and the great learning displayed in the edition of the Syriac text, that it should be quite free from errors. They are, however, by no means numerous.

Another important feature in the present translation is, that it includes four more pages of the Syriac than have hitherto appeared, they having been discovered since the Syriac text was printed. For these, the public are indebted to the Rev. W. CURRERON, whose courtesy in directing the Editor's attention to them, as well as in occasionally affording assistance in the progress of the work, is gratefully acknowledged<sup>b</sup>.

For the Translation, the Editors have to express their acknowledgments to the Rev. HENRY BURGESS, LL.D. and Ph. D.

H. G. W.

*Cambridge, May, 1854.*

<sup>b</sup> Since the English translation was printed, but before the preliminary matter was put to press, the Festal Letters have been reprinted, with a

Latin translation, in the sixth volume of the *Patrum Nova Bibliotheca* by Cardinal Mai.