

**CHURCH HISTORY
HANDBOOKS. BOOK
I. THE EARLY PERIOD**

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Church History Handbooks. Book I. The Early Period by Henry C. Vedder

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HENRY C. VEDDER

**CHURCH HISTORY
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CHURCH HISTORY HANDBOOKS

Book I

The Early Period

By

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FOREWORD

It is an age of condensation. The most important messages, to command attention, must compact themselves into narrow space. In obedience to this demand these handbooks are sent forth. For our study classes and training schools, for rapid consultation in the busy pastor's study, and for collateral work among our Bible students they will be found invaluable. The attempt has been made to include all essential historic facts, while the extensive bibliography on the various themes will supplement any needful omission.

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INTRODUCTION

1. Definition of History

The word "history" is used in several different senses, and confusion of thought is certain to result unless these meanings are clearly discriminated. (1) It is derived from the Greek *historia*, an inquiry, and hence properly means a learning or knowing by inquiry. In other words, it is that branch of science which has for its object the ascertaining and recording of exact fact with regard to the past. (2) "History" also means a written narrative of past events, which may vary from the simplest form of annals or chronicles to the more complex forms of systematic discourse, with all the embellishments of literary art. (3) "History" is sometimes used as a convenient designation for the sum total of past events. We must distinguish between events as they actually happened and events as they have been apprehended and recorded. The problem of historical study is to recover the real fact from, and by means of, the records.

2. Relation to Church History

Study of church history takes as its starting-point belief in God, Maker of the universe and Ruler of