

**EARLY CHRISTIAN LITERATURE  
PRIMERS. THE APOSTOLIC  
FATHERS AND THE APOLOGISTS  
OF THE SECOND CENTURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649566501

Early Christian Literature Primers. The Apostolic Fathers and the Apologists of the Second Century by George A. Jackson & George P. Fisher

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**GEORGE A. JACKSON & GEORGE P. FISHER**

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ERATURE PRIMERS, *edited*  
*by Professor* GEORGE P. FISHER, D. D.

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THE  
APOSTOLIC FATHERS  
AND  
THE APOLOGISTS OF THE  
SECOND CENTURY.

BY  
REV. GEORGE A. JACKSON.

NEW YORK:  
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY,  
1, 3, AND 5 BOND STREET.

1881.

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## P R E F A C E .

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IT is the design of this volume, and of the series of which it is the first, to provide intelligent persons, laymen as well as ministers, with the means of acquainting themselves, through accurate translations or summaries, with the early ecclesiastical writers. The present volume covers the interval between the close of the Apostolic Age and the last quarter of the second century. Many of the Christian writings of this period have perished altogether, sharing thus the fate which befell so large a portion of the ancient classical literature. This circumstance, however, heightens the value even of the fragments which have survived the wreck, and which serve to throw light upon the condition of the Church in the obscure opening era of its history, when doctrines began to be formulated, and the New Testament Scriptures to be collected in the Canon.

It is essential to the value of such a work that



the translations should be correctly made, and that the explanatory observations should be in accord with the latest and soundest criticism, and should be free from the influence of a theological bias. These conditions, so far as I am able to judge, have been faithfully observed by Mr. Jackson. There may be minor points on which critics may differ in judgment, and slight inaccuracies may have escaped detection; but the work will still be recognized, I trust, as fulfilling its promise, and as meeting a want which has not before been supplied.

GEORGE P. FISHER.

YALE COLLEGE, *June 30, 1879.*

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