

**STRUGGLES OF THE EARLY  
CHRISTIANS: FROM THE  
DAYS OF OUR SAVIOUR TO  
THE REIGN OF CONSTANTINE**

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Struggles of the Early Christians: From the Days of Our Saviour to the Reign of Constantine by  
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**R. W. B. & F. D. HUNTINGTON**

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OF THE  
EARLY CHRISTIANS.



A SCENE IN JUDEA.

STRUGGLES  
OF THE  
EARLY CHRISTIANS.

FROM THE DAYS OF OUR SAVIOUR TO THE REIGN  
OF CONSTANTINE.

*By R. W. B.*

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION,  
By REV. F. D. HUNTINGTON, D.D.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE circumstances that occasioned this work furnish, perhaps, the best justification of the design. The teacher of a class of young persons, wishing to give a course of instruction in the history of our religion, found no text-book suited to the purpose. These exercises were prepared in their order, from such historical sources as were within reach, and proved so satisfactory both to the intelligence and the spiritual affections of the pupils, as to suggest their publication. There was thus furnished the advantage of a direct object, at every step, and the test of practical use was immediately applied. The place which the volume undertakes to fill was not occupied before; and the experiment of its usefulness has been made.

The study of Church history hardly needs

recommendation. If much that passes under that name proves unattractive or unprofitable, it must be from the unskilfulness of the writer, or the dryness of the treatment, not from the nature of the subject. To go back to the earliest workings of the Christian Life in the world; to enter into communion with the primitive faith and zeal; to hold up for contemplation the grand characters of ancient believers; to witness their sublime patience and righteous sincerity; to trace the movement of God's own hand in the events that shaped and extended his invincible Church; to watch the growth and change of opinions; to be warned by the corruptions of truth, and the inroads of error; all this is surely a right and noble part of a true Christian education. Place should clearly be made for it in all wise and comprehensive plans of religious reading and study, whether in the Sunday School, or in the family. It enlightens the scholar's mind, enlarges his charity, furnishes him with the means of a fairer judgment of doctrines, sects, and eccle-

siastical measures, and, if he will allow it, enriches his heart with new inspirations of that Spirit of all comfort and grace which the Saviour promised to his disciples.

For the manner in which the work has been executed, the reader or teacher is referred to its contents. With all thoughtful persons, the style will not be less esteemed for its simplicity and plainness. The object has been to convey the current of the narrative, in as little space, and with as much fulness and clearness, as possible. The period embraced extends from the scene at Pentecost to the death of Constantine.

The undersigned has been requested to introduce the volume to the public by a preface, and does so with friendly wishes for its success, and for the cause it seeks to promote. Having entire confidence in the fidelity and competency of the authorship, he believes it will be found free from any errors of consequence, and that its statements are sustained by standard historians.

F. D. H.