

# **CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA**

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Clement of Alexandria by F. R. Montgomery Hitchcock

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**F. R. MONTGOMERY HITCHCOCK**

**CLEMENT OF  
ALEXANDRIA**



P. Cheslake

1916

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Clement of Alexandria

The Fathers for English Readers.

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# Clement of Alexandria

BY

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# CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

## PART I

### CHAPTER I

#### CLEMENT'S HOME ; THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, AND ITS PRINCIPAL FEATURES

“ Nam tibi, quo die  
Portus Alexandria supplex  
Et vacuum patefecit aulam,  
Fortuna Iustro prospera tertio  
Belli secundos reddidit exitus,  
Laudemque et optatum peractis  
Imperii decus arrogavit.”

HOR., *Od.*, iv. 14.

•THE life and work of Clement of Alexandria could not, perhaps, be more favourably introduced to the notice of our readers than by a brief account of the historic city in which that life was lived and that work was done, and a general summary of the various influences that helped to mould and develop the character and genius of the man.

The city was founded by the great Alexander whose name it bore. Having crushed the Persian power

for ever on the plains of Issus, 333 B.C., the Macedonian conqueror had paused for a short breathing-space in his career of victory to settle affairs in Palestine and Egypt. During this period of rest he founded Alexandria, an extensive and regular city, built on a beautiful and commodious site, and destined to become the great emporium of the East.

On the north side its walls were washed by the blue waves of the Mediterranean, while the fine lake Mareotis formed its boundary on the south. The city, moreover, had the advantage of possessing two harbours, one facing the north-east and the other the south-west, so that it was possible for ships to sail in and out in all weathers, and was also connected with the interior of the country by a large canal.

Thus Alexandria was admirably situated for commerce; and as a large proportion of its inhabitants consisted of enterprising Jews and Greeks, it soon came to the front in the trade of the world. It has been said that the East and West met together in this centre to buy and sell and get gain. It was no wonder then, considering its great natural advantages, that the city very rapidly assumed vast proportions, covering in its prosperous days as much ground as modern Paris, registering nearly half-a-million free citizens,<sup>1</sup> and having at its disposal more capital even than Rome.

<sup>1</sup> Diodorus, who visited the city 60 A.D., informs us that the registers showed a population of 300,000 free citizens, and that there were as many slaves.