

**THE TESTIMONY OF JUSTIN MARTYR TO
EARLY CHRISTIANITY: LECTURES
DELIVERED ON THE L.
P. STONE FOUNDATION AT PRINCETON
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, IN MARCH,
1888. [NEW YORK]**

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GEORGE T. PURVES

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BY

GEORGE T. PURVES, D.D.,

PASTOR OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH, PA.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following lectures were delivered on the L. P. Stone Foundation at Princeton Theological Seminary, and are published at the request of the Faculty. The form in which they were originally delivered has been retained, and but few changes made in substance or language. They have been prepared in such leisure moments as could be found in a busy pastorate, and the author keenly realizes their many imperfections. He hopes, however, that they may stimulate more of our Presbyterian ministers to cultivate the field of early patristic literature. Its importance to Christian apologetics is very great. Its study will also contribute to clearer views of the nature and true unity of the Church. It should not be left, as it has so largely been, to Romanists and rationalists. While we firmly hold to the sole authority of the Scriptures for faith and practice, the history of the early ages of our religion and the careful examination of all the elements which, as time went on, entered into it will enable us to read the New Testament with fresh confidence and intelligence. Above all, in this age of historical criticism, when so many minds are honestly confused concerning the evidences for the faith of the Church, some acquaintance with the events and literature of the second century is demanded of those who would successfully guide the

inquirer and help the doubter. The author may be allowed to add that, with the utmost desire to deal fairly with the evidence and to follow the facts, he has obtained, by his excursions into patristic literature, renewed assurance both of the divine origin of Christianity and of the correctness of the orthodox Protestant estimate of the New Testament.

ALLEGHENY, PA., 1888.

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