

# A Critical History of Christian Literature and Doctrine From the Death of the Apostles to the Nicene Council, Vol. 2 (Classic Reprint)

James Donaldson

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Excerpt from A Critical History of Christian Literature and Doctrine From the Death of the Apostles to the Nicene Council, Vol. 2

The era embraced in oar second division extends from the reign of Antoninus Pius to that of Commodus. One of the writers included in the previous group, Polycarp, lived far on into this period. But his style and mode of thought, as well as the most active part of his life, belong to the earlier period. The writer of the Pastor of Hennas may also have lived in the time of the Antonines, but here again in the lack of external evidence we are led by the character of his work to place him in the earliest group of Christian writers. On the other hand, some of the writers included in the second group flourished in the reign of Hadrian. The first Apologists presented their apologies to that emperor. But as their writings are lost, and consequently a thorough study of their mode of thought is impossible, we class them along with those who carried out the special work which they had commenced.

This era is justly called the Apologetic. There were many other writers besides the Apologists, and the Apologists wrote other works besides the apologies.

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