

**DANIEL WEBSTER EDITION. THE WORLD'S
ORATORS: COMPRISING THE GREAT
ORATIONS OF THE WORLD'S HISTORY WITH
INTRODUCTORY ESSAYS, BIOGRAPHICAL
SKETCHES AND CRITICAL
NOTES. VOLUME III. ORATORS OF THE EARLY
AND MEDIAEVAL CHURCH**

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GUY CARLETON LEE

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and Critical Notes

GUY CARLETON LEE, PH.D.
Editor-in-Chief

VOLUME III.
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PREFACE

TO

THE ORATORS OF THE EARLY AND MEDIÆVAL CHURCH

THIS volume, the third in *The World's Orators* Series, is devoted to patristic eloquence. The title chosen for the work, *The Orators of the Early and Mediæval Church*, indicates its comprehensive scope. This includes examples of eloquence chosen from the masterpieces of the famous orators of the first thousand years of the history of the Christian Church.

The canons of modern criticism are as applicable to the selections herein contained as to the master- orations of to-day ; yet correctly and successfully to apply these rules of the twentieth century, a knowledge of the conditions governing patristic oratory is essential. This knowledge is not always at command ; the statement, therefore, is appropriate, that the orations given in this volume seemed to their hearers eloquent beyond criticism.

In selecting the material for the present volume the Editors have kept in mind the twofold object of the World's Orators Series, that is, the presentation of masterpieces of eloquence and the illustration of oratorical development. This rule of selection has compelled the inclusion of certain orations that are more valuable as indicating steps in progress than as brilliant specimens of eloquence.

The Editor-in-Chief has been extremely fortunate in securing the collaboration of Joseph Cullen Ayer, B.D. (*Cambridge*), Ph.D. (*Leipsic*). The natural oratorical ability, as well as the deep and broad learning of this scholar, has been of the greatest assistance. His collaboration has left its impress upon every selection in this volume. The Editor-in-Chief also takes pleasure in acknowledging the valuable assistance of Professor Mitchell Carroll in translating several of the orations.

G. C. L.

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