CONTENTS

| Preface | | vii |
|--------------|---|-----|
| CHAPTER 1 | The Nativity, the Star, the Crucifixion, and Roman History | 1 |
| CHAPTER 2 | Paul, the Acts, and Imperial Rome | 45 |
| CHAPTER 3 | The Profession of Christianity Made Criminal | 67 |
| CHAPTER 4 | The Terror of Domitian | 83 |
| CHAPTER 5 | Renegades Reprieved | 103 |
| CHAPTER 6 | The Fairmindedness of Hadrian | 121 |
| CHAPTER 7 | Antoninus Pius, a Loyal Follower of His Father | 131 |
| CHAPTER 8 | Marcus Aurelius' Rule: An Era of Misfortunes | 143 |
| CHAPTER 9 | Commodus, the Prodigal Son, and the Christians | 159 |
| APPENDIX | | 167 |
| 1 | The Martyrdom of the Holy Martyrs Justin, Chariton, Charito, Euelpistus, Hierax, Paeon, and Liberian | 167 |
| 2 | The Martyrdom of Ptolemaeus and Lucius | 169 |
| 3 | The Martyrdom of Saints Carpus, Pamfilus, and Agathonice | 171 |
| 4 | The Passion Story of Saint Polycarp | 174 |
| 5 | The Passion Story of the Martyrs of Lugdunum | 181 |
| 6 | The Acts of the Scillitan Martyrs | 190 |
| 7 | The Martyrdom of the Holy and Blessed Apollonius | 191 |
| Bibliography | | 199 |
| Index | | 209 |