St. GREGORY Nazianzen begins with these words his panegyric of this glorious saint, and champion of the faith: 1 "When I praise Athanasius, virtue itself is my theme: for I name every virtue as often as I mention him who was possessed of all virtues. He was the true pillar of the church. His life and conduct were the rule of bishops, and his doctrine the rule of the orthodox faith." St. Athanasius was a native of Alexandria, and seems to have been born about the year 296. His parents who were Christians, and remarkable for their virtue, were solicitous to procure him the best education. Champion of Truth book. Read reviews from world's largest community for readers. Saint Athanasius was one of the great leaders of the early Church. During...