

THE BAPTISTS AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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The Baptists and the American revolution by William Cathcart

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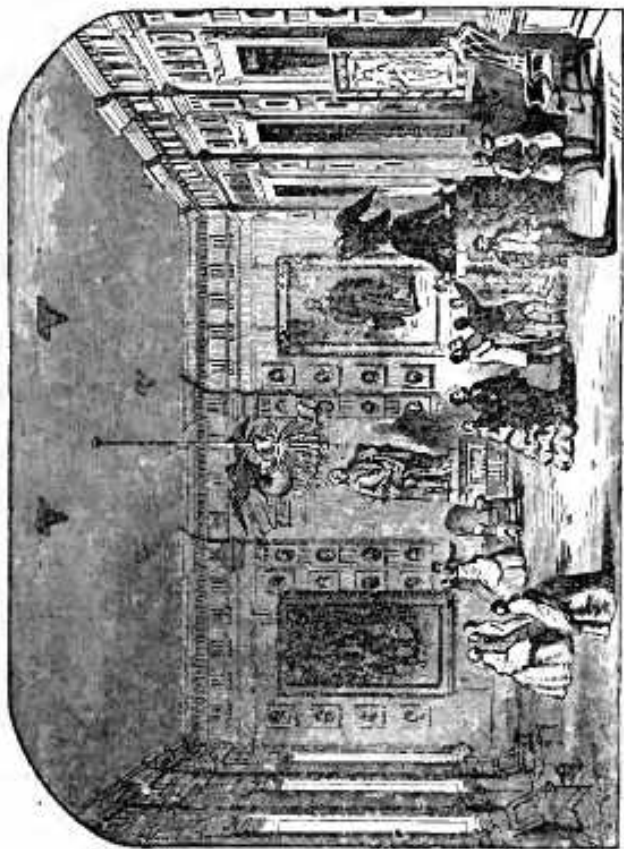
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WILLIAM CATHCART

**THE BAPTISTS AND
THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**



INTERIOR OF INDEPENDENCE HALL.



*The Meeting House which John Hart built
for the Baptist Church of Hope well N. J.*

John Hart Speaker

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THE BAPTISTS

AND

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

BY

WILLIAM CATHCART, D.D.,
PHILADELPHIA.

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1876.

A portion of the following work was prepared at the request of "The Baptist Ministerial Union" of Pennsylvania, and delivered at their annual meeting in Meadville, October, 1875, when the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the thanks of the Union be tendered to Brother Cathcart for his able and instructive essay, and that a committee of three brethren be appointed to confer with the author in regard to the publication and circulation of the essay."

Upon the delivery of the same address before the Philadelphia Association at its annual meeting in October, 1875, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

Resolved, In view of the part which the Baptists of America took in the formation of our government, and especially in contending for religious liberty, that Brother Cathcart be requested to furnish a copy of his able and eloquent address for publication in the Minutes of the Association."

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by

WILLIAM CATHCART, D. D.,

In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

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P R E F A C E .

BAPTISTS have ever been the ardent friends of civil and religious liberty. Their history in the New World overflows with testimonies of this character.

They have never regarded the military profession with much favor, and, as a rule, have only resorted to arms in great emergencies when the worst evils threatened an entire people. So that we must not look for them among the principal commanders of the Revolution.

The leading men of Massachusetts and Virginia, the two great arms of the Revolution, were hostile to the Baptists, and had lent their aid to laws which grievously persecuted them right down to the commencement of the great

struggle, and it is not to be expected that they would place members of the "Sect everywhere spoken against" in prominent military positions.

These oppressive laws kept numbers from uniting with our people, who held their principles; and compelled many British Baptists to stay in the mother country who would otherwise have found a home in America.

Notwithstanding these considerations our brethren acted a glorious part in the conflict, which secured our liberties, and which set the world an example which so many nations have already followed.

This little work is not a history of all the efforts of our Baptist fathers to make the American Revolution triumphant, but a sketch of persons and events precious to our great denomination and dear to patriots of every creed and clime.