

**THE TRIUMPH OF THE PRESBYTERY OF
HANOVER: OR, SEPARATION OF
CHURCH AND STATE IN VIRGINIA.
WITH A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED
STATES FROM 1705 TO 1888**

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The Triumph of the Presbytery of Hanover: Or, Separation of Church and State in Virginia.
With a Concise History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States from 1705 to 1888 by
Jacob Harris Patton

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BY

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PREFACE.

IN 1773, two years before the commencement of the Revolution, the Ministers and Elders of the Presbytery of Hanover inaugurated a movement for the "Separation of Church and State in Virginia," and during the *twelve* succeeding years, never relaxed their efforts until every law on the statute-book of that State which interfered with the religious rights of the people was swept away. Owing to the exciting incidents of that period—the Revolutionary contest—this remarkable episode in the progress of religious freedom was partially overlooked, and has since been only very briefly noticed by writers on the general history of the country.

In order that the American people, and especially Presbyterians, might learn of the inner workings of this severe struggle; of the numerous obstacles the Presbytery had to overcome, principally because of the bad faith of the majority in the Virginia House of Assembly, the

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latter being aided and abetted by the authorities of the Church of England, then established in the Colony—the author wrote a history of that contest, which was published in the *Presbyterian Review* for January, 1883.

In accordance with the views of those whose opinions are worthy of respect, the author has republished that article, and to which he has also added a concise history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States from the organization of its first Presbytery, at Freehold, N. J., in 1705, to 1888. This booklet contains a summary of the incidents and characteristic principles whose influence moulded the inner life of this Church and promoted its progress; while it omits the numerous details in respect to the separate organizations of Presbyteries and Synods and of individual churches, it goes into detail sufficient to afford the general reader a clear, and, it is hoped, a satisfactory idea of the subject. It is highly proper to give the *younger Presbyterians* of to-day an opportunity to learn of the remarkably consistent career of their own Church; of its steady and uniform progress from that early day to the present—covering a period of one hundred and eighty-three years.

This publication is in view of the prospective reunion of the Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterian Church in 1888; which reunion, if consummated, will be under conditions that will render its influence far-reaching and beneficial, not merely to the Church itself, but likewise to the Nation. The reasons for this hope and opinion are given in the booklet itself.

Among many other authorities, the following have been consulted:

DR. ROBERT BAIRD—*Religion in America.*

HON. H. S. RANDALL—*Life of Thomas Jefferson.*

DR. FRANCIS Q. HAWES—*Episcopal Church in Virginia.*

BISHOP MEADE—*Old Churches in Virginia.*

DR. W. H. FOOTE—*Sketches of Virginia.*

DR. ABEL STEVENS—*History of Methodism.*

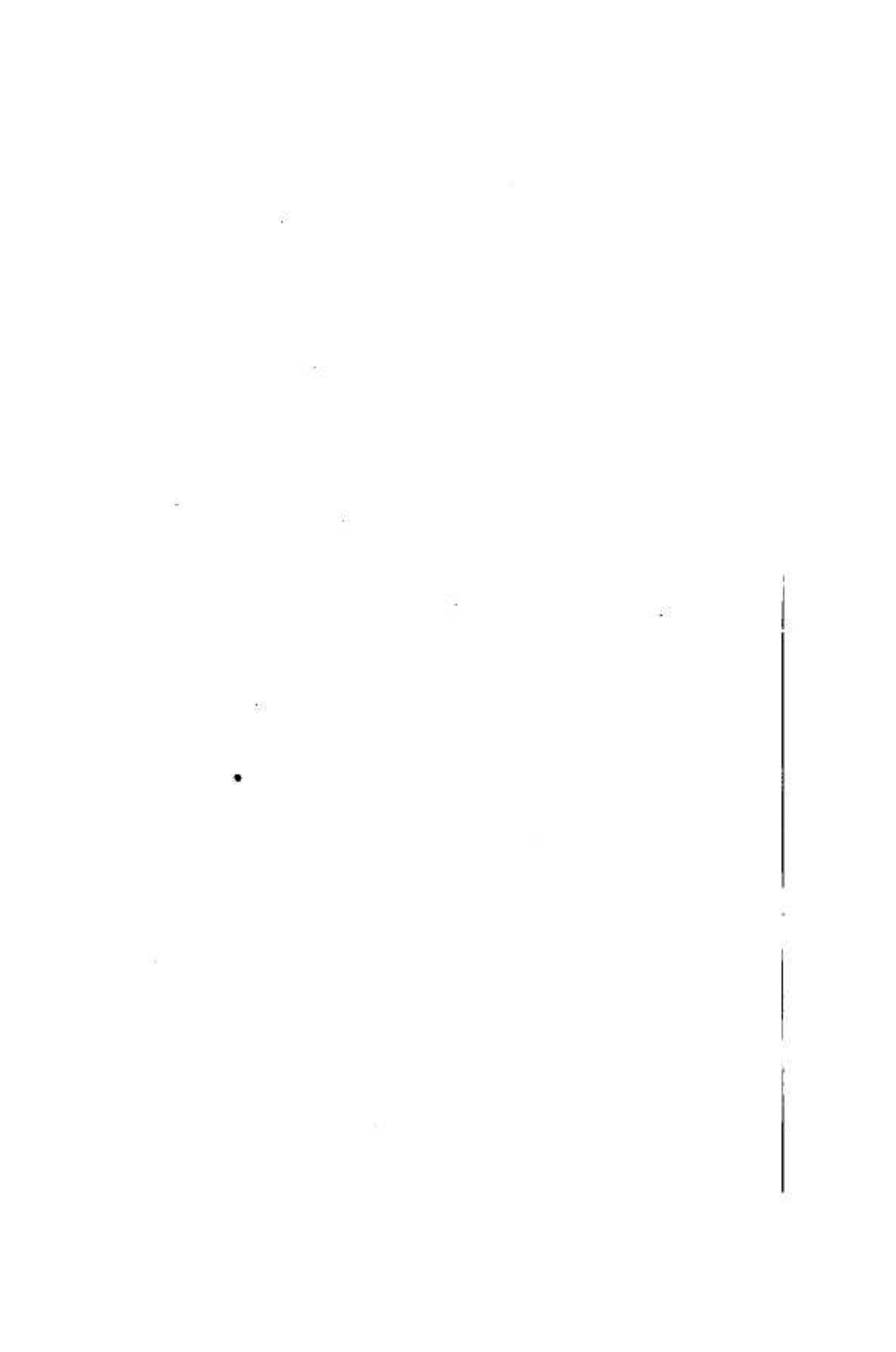
DR. E. H. GILLETT—*History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.*

DR. CHARLES HODGE—*Constitutional History of the same.*

The latter two histories—together comprising three volumes—are specially valuable, and supplement one another, and in order to obtain a minute and exhaustive view of the subject, both should be studied.

J. H. P.

NEW YORK, Dec. 10, 1887.



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