

**A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION. FIRST PUBLISHED IN
LONDON UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE
OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF
USEFUL KNOWLEDGE**

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A history of the American revolution. First published in London under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge by J. L. Blake

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J. L. BLAKE

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A
HISTORY
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

FIRST PUBLISHED IN LONDON UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE
OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL
KNOWLEDGE.

IMPROVED WITH
MAPS AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS.

ALSO
REVISED AND ENLARGED,

By Rev. J. L. BLAKE, D. D.
AUTHOR OF "SKETCHES OF AMERICAN HISTORY."

NEW YORK;
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1844

ADVERTISEMENT.

It is stated, on the title page, that this work was first published in London under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. Such is its character for impartiality and accuracy and correct diction, that several editions of it have been published in this country without alteration. In the present edition, where more minute details were judged desirable, additions have been made which amount to about one fifth of the whole volume. These additions are partly incorporated into the text, and are partly in the form of notes. The pictorial illustrations will also be esteemed a great improvement, whether it is to be used as a class-book for study in schools, or as a reading book in families. The distinctive merits of the original work were presented, in the first American edition, published at Boston, 1832, under the following classification.

First—It is the most brief, concise, and distinct narrative of the principal events of the American Revolution, known to exist.

Second—It possesses an uninterrupted continuity of interest from the first to the last, without embellishment and with no other alteration than a plain recital of historical facts.

Third—It communicates facts in which persons of

all ages have an interest, in a style simple enough to satisfy the young, and substantial enough to gratify the mature and cultivated.

Fourth—The facts are collected and published under the sanction of a society composed of men most eminent for their learning and station among every class of the citizens of Great Britain, of whom Mr. Brougham, the Lord Chancellor, was chairman, and therefore to them no undue partiality for the cause of this country during the struggle for independence can be imputed.

Fifth—Although the occasion was one of the most justifiable for war that ever has or can arise, and the contest was continued by high and honorable minds under the severest trials of disappointment, self-denial, and suffering, (the surest tests of principle,) still the detail of devastation, murder, and personal revenge is sufficiently conspicuous throughout the whole, to give the contest the peculiar malignity of a civil war, and to make the young and the reflecting mind shudder even at what may be termed a glorious war.

New York, October, 1843.

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AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

SECTION I.

SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH AMERICA.

THE discovery of the western hemisphere, effected by the bold and persevering genius of Christopher Columbus, in the year 1492, gave a new impulse to European activity; and the splendid conquests of the Spaniards in the West Indies, and in South America, excited the emulation of the other maritime powers of Christendom. Our ancestors were not dilatory in their endeavors to enter upon this new path to glory and wealth; for we find that, in the year 1498, John Cabot, by virtue of a commission from Henry VII., took formal possession, in the name of that monarch, of a considerable portion of the continent of North America.

No attempt, however, was made to establish a colony in that country till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, in the years 1578 and 1584, formed settlements there,

which were soon wasted by famine, by disease, and by the arrows of the natives, who, as heathens, were counted as nothing in the royal grants under which the adventurers acted. The first permanent British settlement was established in the reign of King James I., under whose auspices a company of adventurers built Jamestown, on the northern side of James river. This colony, however, continued for a long time in a feeble state. It was founded A. D. 1607; and, though it received continual accessions of new settlers, its population, in the year 1670, amounted to no more than 40,000 souls.

The Virginian colonists were prompted to quit their native country by the hope of bettering their temporal condition. A higher motive gave rise to the colonization of the northern portion of the new continent. After the passing of the Act of Uniformity, in the reign of Elizabeth, the Puritans had suffered grievous persecution; to escape from which a small body of them had fled, in the year 1606, into Holland. Unwilling, however, entirely to sever themselves from the land which gave them birth, they applied to their sovereign, King James, beseeching him to permit them to establish themselves in his North American dominions, in the full exercise of liberty in religious matters.

With this their request, in its full extent, James refused to comply. All that they could