

**THE HICKSITE
QUAKERS AND
THEIR DOCTRINES**

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The Hicksite Quakers and Their Doctrines by James M. DeGarmo

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JAMES M. DEGARMO

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BY JAMES M. DeGARMO, A.M., PH.D.



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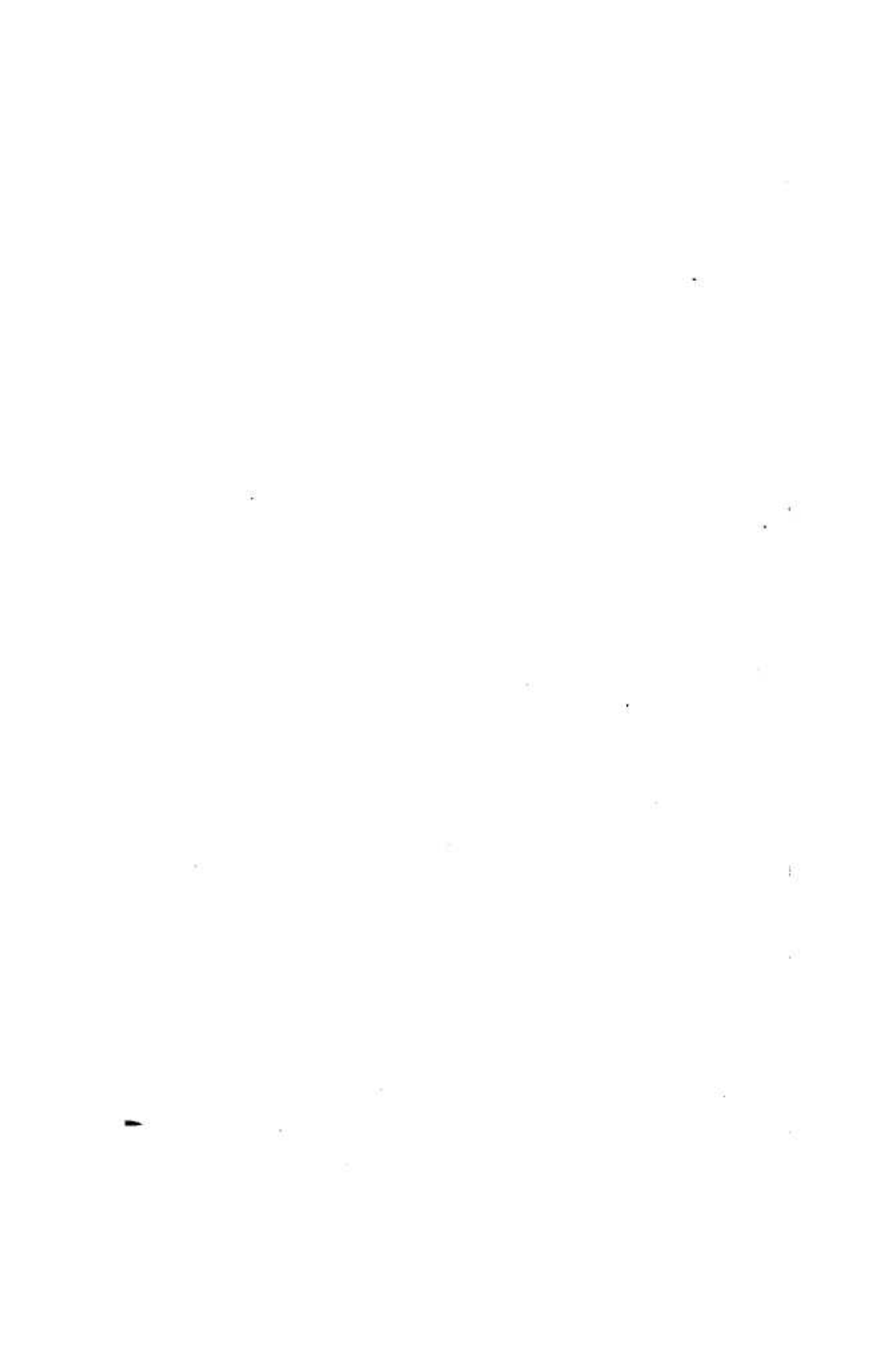
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To
THE MEMORY OF
MY NOBLE QUAKER FATHER
AND
MY SAINTED QUAKER MOTHER
WHOSE PURE AND HOLY LIVES HAVE BEEN A
PERPETUAL BENEDICTION TO
THEIR CHILDREN
This Little Volume is Dedicated
BY THEIR GRATEFUL SON





Ms. 107
E. D. Sunderland
8-11-48



PREFACE.

This Book is not intended to be in any sense a *history* of the Hicksite Quakers. It originated in a Paper read by the author before Vassar Brothers' Institute in Poughkeepsic, some years ago, in reply to public utterances of a Clergyman against the Quakers, and the form of that address has been partly preserved, though it has been entirely rewritten and annotated. Its preparation has been rest and recreation for me in my busy life. It has proved a delightful task to pass in critical review the faith and practices with which I was familiar in my Boyhood and Youth ; and not only has it revived precious memories with which the past is peopled, but I am not unconscious that the prolonged studies and careful com-

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parisons into which this work has led me have resulted, for myself, in more definite and more comprehensive views of religious truth in general, and especially of those primary and fundamental truths of Christianity, the Immanence of God in the Soul of Man, Man's immediate spiritual communion with Him, and His revelation of Himself in and through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I am not disinclined to believe that upon these fundamental doctrines, with truly catholic liberty of interpretation, all Protestant Christians may yet join in a common worship, and the scattered fragments of the Church be re-united into the aggressive army of Truth and Progress.

This Essay has been severely criticised for the use of the term "Quakers" instead of "Friends," the name they themselves prefer. It is urged that this is not their chosen designation, but that they were called "Quakers" in reproach. This is no doubt true, but what was intended as a reproach, has become an honor; what was

fixed upon them as a stigma, has become a crown of glory. The world knows what we mean by "Quakers"; the expression has passed into history, and for me and many another of their descendants it has associations that cannot easily be sacrificed. So I accept the censure, and retain the name as it was written.

It will easily be noticed that I have used the past and present tenses almost interchangeably. It was inevitable that this should be so. My intimate associations with the Quakers as a Society were in the past, in youth's Golden Days, but my admiration for their character, and my love for their blessed spirituality are living facts of the present. So I let the confusion of tenses stand, conscious that if it is not the best in a literary sense, it is at least the true reflection of my own mind, and of the moods in which the work has been done.

In addition to my own experiences among the Quakers, and to the authoritative Discipline of the Society, I am much