

**PRESBYTERIANS
AND THE
REVOLUTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649202645

Presbyterians and the revolution by W.P. Breed

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W.P. BREED

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AND THE
REVOLUTION**

PRESBYTERIANS
AND
THE REVOLUTION.

BY THE
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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

PHILADELPHIA :
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION
1334 CHESTNUT STREET.

218762

E269
P9B8

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1876, by
THE TRUSTEES OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

WESTCOTT & THOMSON,
Stereotypers and Electrotypers, Philada.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
CHAPTER I.	
PRESBYTERIANS AND THE CENTENNIAL.....	5
CHAPTER II.	
PRESBYTERIANISM A REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT.....	24
CHAPTER III.	
PRESBYTERIANISM ODIOUS TO TYRANTS.....	34
CHAPTER IV.	
PRESBYTERIAN SPIRIT IN HARMONY WITH THAT OF THE REVOLUTION.....	41
CHAPTER V.	
THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY RESOLUTIONS.....	58
CHAPTER VI.	
THE MECKLENBURG DECLARATION.....	65
CHAPTER VII.	
PRESBYTERIAN ZEAL AND SUFFERING.....	79

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CHAPTER VIII.

	PAGE
FORMAL ACTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.	108

CHAPTER IX.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND DR. JOHN WITHERSPOON	136
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CHAPTER X.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFEDERACY.....	167
--------------------------------------	-----

CHAPTER XI.

MONUMENT TO WITHERSPOON.....	180
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PRESBYTERIANS
AND
THE REVOLUTION.

CHAPTER I.

PRESBYTERIANS AND THE CENTENNIAL.

IT was to be expected that the approach of the one hundredth anniversary of our nation's birth would awaken a profound interest in the public mind and give rise to measures for a commemorative recognition in some degree befitting the occasion.

Of necessity the national thought reverts to those stirring times that so grandly tried the souls of men and issued in the creation of this gigantic republic. Again on our eye flashes the light of those guns that laid the martyrs low on Lexington Green and at

Concord Bridge. Again to our ear comes the report of "the shot heard round the world." The heroic devotion of those men who, for the sake of a principle, so calmly offered their breasts to the deadly leaden hail, stirs with a fresh impulse the patriotic virtues within us and lifts our manhood higher in our esteem. Anew there passes across the field of our vision that grand procession of sages and statesmen and military heroes, and we thank the God of nations for a generation of men so fitted for the exigencies of such a day and hour.

History has abundantly verified the insight of Chatham as displayed in his fervid eloquence in the House of Lords, in January, 1775:

"When your lordships look at the papers transmitted us from America, when you consider their decency, firmness and wisdom, you cannot but respect their cause and wish to make it your own.

"For myself I must avow that in all my

reading—and I have read Thucydides and have studied and admired the master-states of the world—for solidity of reason, force of sagacity and wisdom of conclusion under a complication of difficult circumstances, no nation or body of men can stand in preference to the general congress at Philadelphia. The histories of Greece and Rome give us nothing equal to it.”

The bustle also of the town-meeting breaks on the ear. We hear the broad-browed yeomen discussing the foundation principles of free government, and closing the discussion with the high resolve for liberty or death. The provincial congress gathers, and thrills with the burning sentences that spring from the lips of an Adams or a Patrick Henry. The Continental Congress assembles, doubtful of its powers, uncertain as to what wisdom demands, hindered by countless obstacles, only one thing clear, and that is their inflexible determination not to submit to the tyrannies of the British king and his parliament.