

**PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION; A
PRIVATE JOURNAL, PREPARED
FROM AUTHENTIC DOMESTIC
RECORDS**

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Personal recollections of the American Revolution; a private journal, prepared from authentic domestic records by Sidney Barclay

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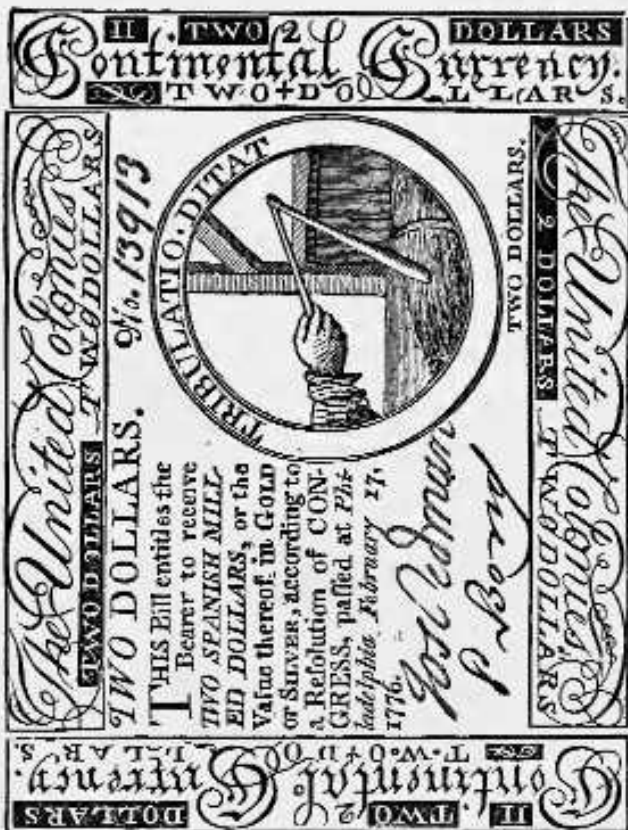
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SIDNEY BARCLAY

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THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION; A
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AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



Fac-simile of a Two Dollar Bill—Revolutionary Currency.
Feb. 17, 1776.

PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS
OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

A Private Journal.

*Prepared from Authentic Domestic Records.
Together with Reminiscences of
Washington & Lafayette.*

Edited by SIDNEY BARCLAY.



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MDCCCLIX.

To
WASHINGTON IRVING, ESQ.

THIS VOLUME

Is with permission inscribed, as a slight

Testimonial of Respect,

S. B.

M169604

PREFACE.

THE following Papers are taken from private records of the Revolution, written by a mover among, and an eye-witness of, the scenes therein described; commencing with the occupation of Long Island by the British.

The actors therein served, not in tented fields, or cabinet councils; their names are not enrolled on the page of history; their deeds are unsung or unremembered; their sufferings, losses, and privations are unrecorded. Yet, in their patient endurance they served their country no less than if their blood had been spilled upon her fields of battle, or their treasure given to acquire her freedom.

Placed in a region of country which was taken early, and held by the enemy during the war, they were subject to the depreda-

Preface.

tions, insults, and levies of the British, and to robbery, incendiarism, and brutal assaults from a class of outlaws, between the armies; the refuse of both parties, called Runners, Rangers, Cow-boys, etc.

Those of the noble true-hearted countrymen of Long Island, who were at all active in behalf of freedom and their country, were exiled from their homes and obliged to fly; if taken, they were imprisoned, their families were scattered, and their dwellings indiscriminately plundered; while, by wearing a bit of red ribbon in their hats, as royalists, they might have been undisturbed and protected.

On the morning of the 30th of August, 1776, under cover of a heavy fog, while the enemy were so near that the sound of their pickaxes and shovels, as they dug the trenches, was distinctly audible to the Americans, General Washington, with unrivalled skill and judgment, effected the silent retreat and memorable passage of the East River.

“After this,” says a recent writer, “the British and their allies, the Tories and Refugees, had possession of the island, and many distressing scenes occurred, which were never made public, and can therefore never be known.”

Of this history, the following pages, from unpublished records, long kept, and often curiously though cursorily peeped into, afford a dark, though true picture. It is the history of the trials and