



# Documentary History of the State of Maine, Vol. 18: Containing the Baxter Manuscripts (Classic Reprint)

James Phinney Baxter

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Excerpt from Documentary History of the State of Maine, Vol. 18: Containing the Baxter Manuscripts

This volume contains the history of the Revolution in Maine and reveals the slipshod manner in which both parties conducted the war. Not only did the authorities on the American side proceed in a careless, unsystematic and blundering manner in the defence, leaving the soldiers engaged in it to starve and freeze until they heard a frantic appeal for help, but the British displayed no enterprise in prosecuting offensive operations. Had they possessed a single able military commander, they could have occupied and held the eastern part of Maine at almost any time. They were far from being offensive. No wonder that Horace Walpole ridiculed the English commanders for their display of "etiquette" in conducting the war.

I am printing at the end of this volume an interesting petition of 1672, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. George S. Stewart, A. B., who copied it from the original. Action on this petition was taken a few months later, and is to be found at page 330 in Vol. 1 of my manuscript Series, or Vol. 4 of the Documentary History.

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