

PREFACE.

THE chief object of this study is to give an account of the political institutions of New Jersey during the period of her executive union with New York. The chapters on the proprietary period were originally prepared as introductory. A discussion of the economic and social development of the province is not a part of the problem.

The most important original sources in print used in this work are the *New Jersey Archives*, the *New York Colonial Documents*, Leaming and Spicer's *Grants and Concessions* and the Colonial Laws of Nevill and Allison. Nevill and Allison, however, give many important statutes only by title. Most, though not all, of the missing acts are to be found in the original Bradford prints in the Charlemagne Tower Collection of Colonial Law in the library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. The rare *Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery* and the still rarer *Answer* to the Bill give invaluable information as to the land controversy in East Jersey. Their statements have, however, been received with caution as the arguments of contending lawyers.

The *Journal of the General Assembly* for the union period has been published (Jersey City, 1872) up to the end of Ingoldsby's administration. The rest is in manuscript in the State Library at Trenton. Other manuscript sources used are the *Minutes of the Supreme Court*, the *East Jersey Records*, the *West Jersey Records*,

Liber AAA of Provincial Commissions, the Minutes of the Council of Proprietors of East Jersey and the Minutes of the Council of Proprietors of West Jersey.

The *Minutes of the Supreme Court* in the office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court contain brief entries of the legal proceedings of the period, but do not give much light as to the nature of the issues involved. Where a decision was reached, however, judgment rolls exist containing the judgment of the court in full. The *East and West Jersey Records* in the office of the Secretary of State comprise the books of deeds, patents, wills, commissions and some surveys. Their general character is made clear by Vol. XXI of the *New Jersey Archives*, which contains a summary of the earlier books. The *Minutes of the Council of Proprietors of East Jersey*, still kept in the office of the proprietary register at Perth Amboy, throw much light on the activity of the proprietors of that division. Unfortunately Book A begins only with the reestablishment of the council in 1725. The office contains also eighteenth-century copies of the *East Jersey Records*. The *Minutes* of the West Jersey Council in the office of the Surveyor-General at Burlington are complete for the proprietary and union periods, and readily accessible through the courtesy of the proprietors and of the Surveyor-General.

In addition to original sources use has been made of numerous secondary works, especially those of Whitehead, Hatfield, Field, Brodhead and Winfield. The student of New Jersey history can not be too grateful for the able researches of these pioneers.

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dent of the Board of East Jersey Proprietors, for permission to examine the proprietary minutes. From the beginning I have had the advantage of the advice of Prof. H. L. Osgood. By him my first interest in colonial history was aroused; at his suggestion this work was undertaken; and without his patient encouragement its completion would have been impossible.

EDWIN P. TANNER.

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