

dictation from any earthly power, being responsible to God only. To worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience. A century and a half ago this principle was not so generally endorsed by other denominations as it is now, but it has always been the teaching of Baptists.

When the province of New Jersey was ceded to Lord Berkley and Sir George Cartaret, by the Duke of York, in 1664, religious freedom was guaranteed in the charter thus: "No person at any time shall be anyways molested, punished, disquieted, or called in question for any difference of opinion or practice in matters of religious concernment." This was the broad teaching which our fathers loved, but it was not always conformed to by paedobaptists of this and neighboring provinces.

In 1775 Baptists as well as others, were required to pay a rate ministerial tax for the support of Presbyterian and Congregational clergymen, in some of the provinces. Our fathers felt themselves wronged, aggrieved and persecuted by this requirement. When knowledge of the fact came to the ears of this church, on the first of February, 1775, they appointed one Mr. Smith, to go to England to represent and defend these persecuted brethren. The church paid the expenses of Mr. Smith upon this mission.

Dr. Manning, and Dr. Stennett, who was known personally to George III, succeeded in getting the ear of the King. The consequence was that His Majesty "disallowed and rejected" all acts of oppression of Baptists: and thus one of the first victories of soul liberty secured on this continent was gained by the co-operation of this church, and