

affected the native work. Since the nations were not reluctant to use everything from bribery to force in gaining the alliance of the Indians, it is not surprising that they sought to take advantage of the religious alliance as well.

But the overall picture shows the largest Roman Catholic work in the southwest with the Mississippi Valley and the Great Lakes region being second. The great Catholic growth in America will come through immigration, not conversion of the natives.

2. The Eastern colonial settlements--religious background.

This section is organized to allow us to...

- study the people who came
- study the settlements they made
- note briefly the character of their churches
- discuss the major events that shaped them
- mention the European connexion
- show the effect of the American revolution
- outline the processes of disestablishmentarianism
- note the new relationships under the constitution.

We may forget some of it but this is the church world of our immediate background and that is why we necessarily take more time for it. There will still be a wealth of details overlooked.

a. The English settlers...a diverse group with the common bond of language their chief link.

(1) Separatists

Largely congregational in motivation and order, the separatists claimed independence in religious expression and meeting. They particularly objected to the Establishment--the term describing the state franchising of a religious body--and its restrictions on "freedom of conscience". Note that the separatists did not argue for a "freedom of religion" but a privilege of non-conformity within an existing society. It will be seen that they were not willing to grant that same privilege to a society in which they were the establishment--one of the easily recognized ironies of life. As a class they were largely a trade and commercial class with some of their members very prosperous and all, as a rule, marked with a strong work ethic.

(2) Puritans

Their chief concern, in England, was reforming the established church, not its removal. On the whole they were a strongly Calvinistic, upper middle class group, representative