

this movement was more widespread but less deep than that of the 1740's. It had a much wider range of territory to cover and the challenge of the frontier was very much a part of the action.

(2) The Mid-century revival moves:

(a) The Finney era (1826-1840)

The years indicate the height of the popularity of Finney's work, not the terminal connections. Finney inspired a number of other evangelists and provided an ongoing center through the founding of Oberlin College. In addition to his personal zeal he contributed what is known as the "invitational" system to evangelism...the calling forth of persons to an altar-decision. Lack of sound theological background hampered the Finney ministry...his concept of perfectionism limited much outreach on the broader scale but he set in motion a widespread evangelistic thrust.

(b) A rather remarkable series of renewal meetings came in 1858 following the panic and economic crash of 1857. I suppose the easiest thing to say is that this was somewhat typical of a return to religious fervor facing personal loss but it was rather remarkable in the scope and effect in the social order.

(c) While we cannot mention all those involved in these meetings, the Methodist evangelist, Peter Cartwright deserves special note (d. 1872). Himself a produce of the second awakening (converted at a camp meeting in 1801), Cartwright gave his life to frontier evangelism and the development of Methodism in the midwest. While typical of the circuit riders in practice he was much more gifted in presentation and highlighted a life of continued evangelistic effort throughout this time.

(d) The Moody era....D.L. Moody, (d. 1899) was no doubt the greatest of the American evangelists of this century and perhaps in the scope of American history. Working with Ira Sankey he staged very successful revivals in England and America and numbered converts in thousands. An unordained person, Moody served all religious bodies and founded educational institutions to go with his ministry. Details for his work are beyond the scope of this course but he was active as well in the YMCA and gave strong support to the Student Volunteer movement.

(e) In the 20th century the World War I evangelism moves were led by Billy Sunday, Wilbur Chapman, R.A. Torrey, etc. Numbers of European preachers appeared in the United States as well. But there was no single period of marked revival in the 20th century (so far) to compare with the peak periods of the past centuries. Revivalism has been more of an ongoing matter in this period.