

(5) the development of Christian teachers and the suggested use of them in a missionaries role in the educational field.

f. Summary:

Throughout the history of our country the church has always had a vital role in education and, in most times, a valued one. Humanism and a more total secularization tend to make this more difficult and it may well be that a deeper participation in education for its own may be the growing challenge of the church. Of some interest on this line has been the development of Christian education programs and directorships on a wider line in the protestant churches in particular.

D. Polity Procedures:

The American churches have fostered the concept of individual polity to a great degree. This may be an outgrowth of the liberty of conscience ideal but it is very evident on this continent. The concept that the church must be self-governing reached even to the Roman communion. I am not going to discuss polity ideals at length but only to mention that this is a major factor in American ecclesiology.

V. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORK OF AMERICAN CHRISTENDOM

A. Revivalism

While it is by no means a unique development for the churches of this continent, its expression has been very firm in the American scene and it has become an established and expected movement. The idea is that of a periodic re-awakening of religious influence under the direction of the Holy Spirit with a resurgence of spiritual life and vitality. We cannot discuss the mechanics in detail and I think there is always some revivalistic expression being given somewhere but the main revival periods are these and particular details may be had in other points of our syllabus:

1. The Great Awakening, 1740 ff
2. The Second Great Awakening, 1800 ff
3. The era of Finney, 1830 ff
4. The Moody period, 1860 ff