

a definitive sense, while allowing for the general reality of an unknown and obscure God..."out there!" The God of deism is a cold and formidable deity or life force but not an intelligible deity of any personal magnitude.

Hume (d. 1776)

David Hume bitterly opposed Christianity and deism on philosophical-humanistic grounds. He spoke against all the arguments for God and empirically dealt a telling blow to the teleological argument by showing the disorder in the universe and arguing it an irrationality to seek to blame it on sin and/or the fall. Hume was equally the foe of the church and the deism movements. The one he views as superstitious and impossible and the other as being myopic and vague. Many of the attitudes and expressions of the later bitter criticism of the Bible are found in germinal form in Hume

Voltaire (d. 1778)

The strongest deistic voice of the time, Voltaire had the help of the British revolutionary, Thomas Paine (d. 1809). While in America Paine was joined by Franklin, Jefferson, et al in the humanistic-deistic groups. The American school is much more appreciative of the idea of a divine economy than is the European but a deist is a deist. Voltaire may also qualify as an agnostic...a term that also fits many in the deistic camp.

The Romanticists

Not all the philosophical thought was impirical and cold. A romanticism developed that showed a reliance on imagination, emotion, and the human traits in cooperation with nature to provide the answers for the wily questions of life. Like mysticism this concept turned inward and while making much of the natural world found in it the comfort and companionship for most of the life decisions. In this way the romantic school represented a revolt against the neo-classical and rational school of its time. It moved from rationalism and into the world of the non-concrete where emotion and empathy play more important parts.

The chief romantic expressionists were Rousseau (d. 1778), Schiller (d. 1805) and Goethe (d. 1832). The first of these was famous for his reintroduction of nature into education and his work EMILY had a powerful influence in educational curricula. The last