

--The knowledge battle: How does one know and what is the content of knowledge. What is the possibility and perception of "innate" knowledge?

--The truth battle: How is truth to be understood in expressed form as relates to eternal and ethical matters? What is the relation between absolutes and relatives in the quest for truth?

The theologians would have been infinitely better off had they handled these in light of the general terms of Scripture but this was not the course taken and as they sought to include answers to the philosophic quandaries of the time, the piety and knowledge of spiritual things became increasingly entangled with the ramblings of men not spiritually qualified to explore these areas in the first place. Out of it all theology would run to the areas of "freethinking" in which the idea would almost come to be "freedom from thinking." The concept of release from the static norms and the entertainment of higher and grander expressions of thought would soon be lost in general deism and agnosticism.

Naturally it was not all this gloomy but the issues in theology were moving this way towards a very unhealthy state in time to come.

The Great Revivals

IV.1.b.

The Great Revivals

The church has been marked by spiritual renewals in several different ways. The period of which we now are students is a new age in many ways. The church is increasingly fragmented, there is a wider aspect of "belief" allowable, the new world frontiers are a large challenge for the first time in the modern world, and the opening of mission societies around the world is a blooming practice. But it is also the age of the somewhat spectacular revivals which had not been seen in such vigorous force since pentacost. Revival is a part of church life, of course, and it is hard to imagine any time when there was none. But this age is met with the phenomena of the travelling, open-air, preacher before whom crowds often fall to their knees and call out for God. This is the age that sets the picture for what will later be thought to be normative in the revival sequence and the success of the revivals of this age will be used to measure the attainments of spiritual movements in the future. To some extent they are linked to the particular social patterns of that time. But in all cases they are bound to a fresh emphasis on the Word of God and the need of men in general.