

dependence on instable and emotive values that may well lead the holder to irrational and unjustified acts.

The English mystics of consequence would include Cowper (d. 1800), Blake (d. 1827) and to some lesser degree Watts (d. 1800). These tended to give little value to physical reality and assurance while seeking stability in fancy or fantasy. Vestiges of this may be seen in virtually all of the Wesleyan-Arminian theologians of England in that time and, as I will mention below, in some of the Calvinists as well.

Calvinism is not immune to pietism and mysticism as some have supposed. The American mystics centered around poets such as Wigglesworth, theologians after Increase Mather and, to a lesser degree, even the Tenements who, to our surprise, were often guided to judgments and moves by dreams and visions. Mysticism is always a moving force but in times of rationalism it seems to have a renaissance...maybe to balance the empirical reaction.

#### IV.4.c. Institutions

##### The Foundation of Religious Institutions (modern)

This age, due to the rising technology and world culture, no doubt, saw the increased birth of new institutions that tended to cross all lines of theological distinctive within the general bounds of faith. We note the following in cursory form:

--The literary ministries of the age set a precedent for the years that followed. In 1799 the Religious Tract Society was formed, followed in 1804 by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and in 1812 by the American Tract Society and, eventually, in 1816, the American Bible Society. This is not an exhaustive list and there were several others born in this time.

--The Sunday School was put into practical service on Sunday afternoons in England as a means of teaching reading, writing, etc., to the masses as well as the truths of the bible. Robert Raikes (d. 1811) was the chief name in this and the Sunday School quickly crossed the water and was an ongoing movement in American life by 1791. Originally it was quite inter-denominational and the same Sunday School organizations would serve many churches. In the last century this became less workable and denominations adopted their own expressions. You may be surprised