

Other Bodies:

Time and opportunity are not adequate for a discussion of all the other groups in England at this period. I mention those with which we are most familiar. Congregationalism had a small and loyal following but was outside the establishment. The Quakers fell in numbers although they continued to exert a non-conformist influence that was very much larger in proportion to their numbers. The Anglican Church was the dominant body and with a few exceptions the persons we think of as significant preachers and theologians were within this group. Governmental subsidy is not an easy force to overlook and the Anglicans enjoyed that privilege and made the most of it. There were great revivals in the Anglican order as well as in the other bodies. But outside the Anglican church the only real areas of growth were in the parts of the Great Britain beyond England; Scotland, Ireland, Wales.

V.2.c.
Development in
Scotland

Notes on the Church of Scotland

The Presbyterian Church gained a slow acceptance in Scotland due to the persecution of the ruling parties but was established by 1692 and then went through some adjustments when the kingdoms of Scotland and England were parliamentarily joined in 1707. From the activities and emotions of this period a number of divisions were produced in the church as the Scots christians reacted to the political events of their time. Without the detail of the particular names of heroes and villains, I note the following: divisions occurred on the patronage problem of 1712, the secession churches of 1740, the burgher quarrel of 1761 and the great disruption of 1843. This was perhaps the most important division and the division was led by Thomas Chalmers in his objection of liberalism and rationalism coming into the Scottish church. Further divisions followed with the Free Church Union of 1900, the establishment of the church of Scotland in 1916, and the continued union of 1929. There are more and the desire of the presbyterians in Scotland to establish a church that was pure as they could see it was very great indeed. Again, they exercised far more influence than their limited size would have suggested.