

Newman's book, incidentally, APOLOGIA VITA SUA is almost indispensable reading for those who have a taste for sympathetic biography.

Survey of Some other English Churches...

Methodist Churches....

The Methodist church, as a body, had its political foundations in the United States after the war of Independence. But the spiritual foundations were in England in the work of Wesley. Although a superb organizer, Wesley did not promote the idea of a new denomination or church..he was active in the Anglican church although he continued to feel the unsympathetic strictures of church officials and leaders who were increasingly non-biblical in polity. So in 1784 the Wesleyan connexion of the Anglican church was fully established and in 1787 his "chapels" were registered as dissenting public meeting houses. His hope for reforming the abuses of the Anglican church by a working cell within did not succeed and the Methodist connexion was the logical outcome.

But following 1797 there proceeded a number of schisms and divisions among the Methodists... mostly on polity or organizational lines..that almost boggles the mind. It is pointless to mention them in these notes and in this century many have come together to form a more united Methodist community in Great Britain. Of special note, I always thought, was the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist church in which the government was of the Wesleyan ideal and the doctrine of the presbyterian. This body has long merged with the Presbyterian church in England. The Methodist community numbers somewhat over one million members in England today and has been marked by extreme liberalism in many of its parts. An evangelical fringe remains however, and several English "holiness" bodies owe their existence to Methodist roots. Among the Methodist developments were the Primitive Methodists after 1811...the body from which Spurgeon emerged many years later... although he moved from Methodism and spent his ministry years among the English Baptist.