

**THE GREAT REVIVAL
IN THE WEST, 1797-
1805**

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The Great Revival in the West, 1797-1805 by Catharine C. Cleveland

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By Caroline
CATHARINE C. CLEVELAND



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PREFACE

The Great Revival in the West at the end of the eighteenth and during the early years of the nineteenth century is one of a series of religious movements which shook the religious life of the Colonies and the United States to the foundations. The first of this series was the so-called Great Awakening of 1740, which began about 1735 under the preaching of Jonathan Edwards. The end of that century witnessed the beginning of another great revival, the western phase of which, often spoken of as the Kentucky Revival, is treated in the following pages. Similar movements stirred the country about 1830 and again about 1850.

It is impossible to understand the religious life of the United States without bearing in mind the revival spirit which has from time to time swept over the country. The word revival, however, must not be confined to these greater movements. It recurs frequently in the history of various denominations in the years intervening.

It is the purpose of the present volume to show the importance of the great western revival which occurred between the years 1797 and 1805. In order that the movement may be more clearly understood, the general social and economic

conditions of life in the West at the end of the eighteenth century have been considered in detail.

The revival was characterized by marked emotional features which resulted in extraordinary bodily exercises. These exercises, as the treatise endeavors to show, can be accounted for on physiological and psychological grounds. Since it was in this revival that camp-meetings originated, the character of the early meetings merits attention.

The influence of the revival upon the moral tone of the regions affected, upon the denominational life of the West, and upon the general religious life of the country, is an important consideration to the student of United States history, and has been dwelt upon at length.

This work was entered upon some years ago under the general guidance of Professor J. F. Jameson, then professor of history at the University of Chicago. To Professor Jameson, I am greatly indebted for many valuable suggestions in the course of my investigations. To Professor William E. Dodd, I am also under great obligations for valuable suggestions and for his introduction to this volume. The present volume has been accepted as a doctoral dissertation by the Department of History of the University of Chicago.

The materials drawn upon for the study are given in detail in the bibliography.

CATHARINE C. CLEVELAND

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