

**PIETISM AND METHODISM; OR,
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF GERMAN
PIETISM IN THE ORIGIN AND
EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF
METHODISM**

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Pietism and Methodism; or, the significance of German pietism in the origin and early development of Methodism by Arthur Wilford Nagler

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PREFACE

THE seventeenth century was the age of Louis XIV. The eighteenth century was the age of the benevolent despots. The seventeenth century was the age of the devastations of the Thirty Years' War and of the hard-and-dry scholasticism into which the Protestant movement hardened. The eighteenth century was the age of the tremendous struggle between England and France for colonial power in the Old World and the New and of that belief in an absent God and a self-sufficient man which we call Deism. The cool logic and the hard externalism of each age felt the quickening power of a vital religious movement. The seventeenth century saw Pietism in Germany. The eighteenth century saw Methodism in England.

The comparative study of these two movements suggests fascinating possibilities to the trained historical investigator. There are technical questions which bristle with interest and sometimes with difficulty. And the practical result of such a study should be a profounder knowledge of each movement as seen in the light of the other and a fuller