

A HISTORY OF AMERICAN REVIVALS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649604500

A History of American Revivals by Frank Grenville Beardsley

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FRANK GRENVILLE BEARDSLEY

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AMERICAN
REVIVALS**

A
History of
American Revivals

By
FRANK GRENVILLE BEARDSLEY, S.T.D.



AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY

150 NASSAU STREET

BOSTON

NEW YORK

CHICAGO

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PREFACE.

THE present volume makes no pretensions to literary excellence, nor does it lay claim to being an exhaustive or critical treatment of the subject. Its purpose is to furnish within modest limits a simple and straightforward account of the great revivals and revival movements characteristic of our national religious history. For obvious reasons every revival and every individual associated with revival history could not receive mention. It is to be regretted, moreover, that the data at hand have not warranted a fuller treatment of some phases of this subject. Aside from these limitations the effort has been made to give as complete a narrative of our revival history as possible.

FRANK G. BEARDSLEY.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Genesis of Revivals.

THE history of revivals is the history of the church. The great epochal movements which have characterized the development of religion may without impropriety be designated as revivals. In accordance with customary usage the term is generally applied to special religious services protracted for a term of days or weeks, when unusual efforts are put forth to reach the unconverted for the purpose of bringing them to repentance and winning them to lives of faith and obedience. Revivals in this sense of the word are of comparatively recent origin and date their beginnings a little more than a century and a half ago. It has been suggested, however, that the annual feasts of ancient Judaism corresponded in some respects to our modern revivals and were a means of promoting vital religion.