

mind the solemn charge that was then given, and never indulge trifling thoughts of what then appeared to me to be of such awful importance."

The early part of his ministry was remarkable for that wonderful religious movement, which, commencing at Northampton and other towns in the Connecticut Valley, spread from town to town and from point to point, until nearly the whole country was embraced in its ever increasing circles.

Great Britain also presented, at the same time, a similar phenomenon. This movement is known in religious annals as the "Great Awakening." Whitefield and the Wesleys were its leaders in England, and Whitefield, Edwards and Burr among its chief promoters in America.*

The personal friendship and connection with Whitefield, begun at this time, forms one of the most charming passages in the life of this good man. The vessel in which the former took passage for this country was bound to Newport, R. I., and as it happened Mr. Burr was in that city when the vessel with its distinguished passenger arrived. It is probable that he accompanied Whitefield on his journey to Boston soon after; at least he was in that city while the latter was preaching there, and his letters of this date contain many pleasant little scraps of information concerning the great preacher and his sermons.

For instance, in one, the first of the series, he remarks, "To-day I heard Mr. Whitefield preach in Dr. Coleman's church. I am more and more pleased with the man." Again, "on the 21st I heard him preach on the Common to about 10,000 people. On Monday visited him and had some conversation, to my satisfaction." "On the 23d went to hear him preach in Mr. Webb's church, but the house was crowded before he came. Same day Mr. Whitefield preached at Mr. Gee's church, and in the evening at Dr. Sewall's. On Saturday I went to hear him preach again, on the Common; there were about 8,000 there.

It was during Mr. Burr's stay in Boston at this time that an incident occurred, which is related as showing his remarkable power as a preacher.

One evening a young lady very wealthy and accomplished, but a sceptic in religion, was passing by the church in which he was

* A letter from Newark at this period mentions Mr. Burr as one of the ministers whom the good Lord had stirred up and inspired to water the seed sown by Mr. Whitefield in that region.