a word about conditions in England. People today talk about the Victorian Age
....the Victorian Age when people were so prudish and all this sort of thing.
There's a great dislike of the Victorian Age. Then we talk about Modernism
as if the whole world belie believed the gospel before these few years when
modernism came out, and that isn't it at all. England , in the Victorian Age,
was perhaps as near to a transformation as any country has ever been for
that period of a few decades, but that wasn't due to Queen Victoria--she gives
her name to it, but it was a result of the evangelical revival of the previous
century and Charles Darwin himself remarked that his grand-father Erasmus
Darwin, fathered an illegitimate child and he had no particular criticism for
it. People didn't look down on it....how are people so different from the
time of my grand-father, but the reason that the great evangelical revival
in the 18th century under Wesley and the others affected the whole of England,
and the American colonies , not merely in bringing the Methodist church into
existance but in affecting all the denominations and causing a great return to
the teaching of the x scripture and in leading out to become genuinely born
again, and the whole standard of ethics and of decency and fix of purpose in
life was raised to a standard it had never been before and was way above
anything we have had since. But it was beginning to loose its force by 1860,
and the rank and file of the pei- people were convinced the Bible was true,
and their was a standard x of conduct requie- required which was a result of
the spread of Christian ideas but there were a great many people in the clergy
who wouldn't think of bringing disgrace on themselves by denying k anything
in the Bible, but who were just filling their positions and going through their
tasks, and giving lip service without any heart feeling, but in the educated
world of England there weretwo tendancies : there was on the one the pulling
away from the teaching of the scriptural teaching and on the other hand