Lutheran bodies...popularly and derisively called "Philippists." A strong reaction followed and the hunt of the time came to be one of finding "crypto-Calvinists" in the Lutheran camp and uprooting same. It is simply a sad note on the way things go...but scholars such as Melancthon need strong leaders such as Luther.

Luther and....Others

Well, we cannot discuss all the persons with whom Luther had close or important bearings. But Philip of Hesse was his most committed leader although not always the most wise. Philip's bigamy in which Luther had a villain's role was disappointing but all men have weak points at some area and we are fortunate to know what they are--for our warning. Philip gave military might to the Lutheran cause and indirectly may have sparked the reverse action of Moritz. The latter was Philip's son in law and some have said that his unhappiness with the way in which Charles V kept Philip in prison was a large factor in turning Moritz against the emperor. Philip sought the unity of evangelical forces, aided the Huguenots when possible, and tolerated the reformed movements. He established the Hessian church before his death.

Luther's relationships with anabaptist leaders were unfortunate. He always associated them with the radical Storch groups and thought of them as a lawless body. He had neither trust nor confidence in them and did not have the patience or the inclination to think otherwise. It was, in his mind, a closed issue. Anabaptists suffered in Lutheran territories...about as much as in the Roman Catholic sections.

With regard to the Emperor, there is a lot that might be said. The Emperor, we are told, often regretted his "safe-conduct" at Worms and wished he had seized the heretic and executed him at the time. But Charles' real enemy was not Luther, it was the greed of the papacy and the way in which the ecclesiastical leaders goaded opposition to the emperor. Something of Charles' character was seen when his armies were on the victorious march through Saxony and he came to Eislaben and to Luther's grave. His advisors urged him to have Luther exhumed, tried, and disgraced as the Romanists had done to Wycliffe (and others) in the past. But the response of Charles, we are told, was to the effect that he did not fight with dead men and he trusted they would rest in peace