

instincts were weak, not because they really understand that the arguments which they oppose to it are strong. I should say also that, in letting their religion go, though they may have become worse people, they have not become consciously unhappier people. Instead of bewailing the fact that they have lost their Sabbath, they are rather inclined to rejoice in the gain of a new bank-holiday. But people like these are not the great majority. The great majority of average men and women are religious by nature now as they always have been. If you doubt me, you need merely look round you. Religion, instead of dying, is everywhere showing new signs of activity. It is animating new movements, it is newly adapting old ones; and if some of the forms it takes seem to you absurd and crude, this is merely because the essence is now so exceptionally active that the new forms which it is taking have not yet had time to complete themselves. It is just as active now as it was in the days of Luther. We have different forms of doctrine, but the same impulse is behind them, which springs from a belief in the spiritual—in God and in man's soul. Whether religious belief is in logic compatible with the knowledge you speak of, that is another question. I am only maintaining now that it is not incompatible with it in fact."

"You are setting yourself," said Glanville, "to contradict something I never asserted. Let me try to explain myself better. Look at those books behind you—that long row on the table. They are all books which deal with the subject we are now talking about. They are all by men of to-day. They are all by men as religious and as liberal as yourself. Let me show you what is said by two of the most famous. One of them is a French Protestant divine; the other is an American professor. This," he went on, taking and opening a volume, "is Sabatier's 'Philosophy of Religion.' Let me read you a few bits from it. I never saw the book till I had myself written what I showed you; and here is this solemn person—a very different man from me—repeating almost my very words.