

8 THE HIGH ROAD TO CHRIST

therefore it cannot be known. Similarly as you cannot see or feel or touch God, you cannot know certainly anything about Him. You can only guess; and guessing is not profitable. If there be a God, if there be such an unseen universe, seeing we cannot establish sensible contact with either, it is best to accept the limitations of our knowledge, and frankly to plead ignorance. That was the temper called Agnosticism; and it is a perfectly sound and honest temper. It was not the vulgar pretentious temper of atheism and other aggressive fashions of unbelief. It was essentially a temper of humility. It said—We do not know, we do not think we can know. We do not deny; we simply settle down to the acceptance of our ignorance. It was, in its best expressions, in no sense a dogmatic and self-confident frame of mind. It did not deny the spiritual universe; it simply denied our power to know it.

But another temper emerged which