

(From *The Citizen*, Nov. 13, 1886.)

### "CERTAINTIES" IN RELIGION.

Editor of *THE CITIZEN*.

SIR,—“Progressive,” in your to-day’s issue, asks “your intelligent readers which they would prefer—Mr. Cook’s weak edition of the anthropomorphic Jewish deity, or the modern scientists’ ‘unknown and unknowable’ power whence all things proceed.” In response, I ask “Progressive” why he, or “the modern scientists” he quotes, should presume to say that any power whatever is not only “unknown,” but also “unknowable?” for though he, or they, may possibly be able to decide intelligently as to what is actually known, or “unknown” by man at present; it is evidently, upon the face of it, the very height of presumption for “Progressive,” or for any other man (whether he considers himself a “modern scientist” or not) to pretend to decide that any power whatever is “unknowable.”

Were “Progressive” really as progressive as he would have us suppose him to be, he would doubtless allow a little for his own progressiveness, and for the progressiveness also of the human family generally, and thus be disposed to admit that the seemingly “unknowable” of to-day may become the knowable of to-morrow.

As to “the anthropomorphic Jewish deity,” which “Progressive” refers to so sneeringly, how can he be so sure that the Creator of man is not anthropomorphic (or like man), in a certain sense, even as the oak tree may be said to be like the acorn? The oak tree originated from the acorn and the acorn develops into the oak tree; consequently they are alike, the difference being merely a matter of progressiveness. I am quite confident that it is in this sense that man is said to be “created in the image and after the likeness of God,” our Creator. Can “Progressive,” or “the modern scientists” prove to the contrary? Should anyone imagine that he can, I now challenge him to a public discussion of the question, in any way that may be most convenient for those interested in the satisfactory solution of a problem so very imperfectly understood hitherto, though of the utmost importance and significance to all of us.

Faithfully yours,

HENRY WENTWORTH MONK.  
Ottawa, Canada, 12th November, 1886