

character high, aspiring and progressive: all misgiving will then be at an end. But the question is not settled by the continuance of highly-educated and exceptionally well-disposed men in the path in which they have hitherto walked notwithstanding their rejection of religion. We cannot be sure even that their minds are cleared of the lingering influence of Christianity; while it is certain that, as members of society, they are still supported by Christian influences on all sides.

Mr. Herbert Spencer himself speaks of the inauguration of that which he deems the right and final system of ethics as an event of the future, apparently of a distant future; and he betrays a significant fear of the premature demolition of religious systems, the close connection of which with the popular morality he, at all events, plainly enough discerns. In the same way an Agnostic antagonist of Mr. Malloch in the *Fortnightly Review* undertakes to comfort us with the assurance that "after some tacking" morality will again start forward on the right course. This period of "tacking," and the indefinite interval contemplated by Mr. Spencer, will, for the mass of mankind, be a time of danger. Mischief is not to be looked for from the philosophers and philanthropists; but supposing there should be a great war of classes—a war between those who have not and those who have, those who have not being convinced that unless they can get enjoyment here and now they will never get it at all—would Mr. Spencer's mechanical theory of social development and decay, in which we, for our part, must confess we can see nothing but a vast pseudo-physical nomenclature, control the passions of such a conflict? Not that this is the motive for religious inquiry. The motive for religious inquiry is the hope of gaining that knowledge of the Estate of Man, of the Power in whose hands we are, and of the will and character of that Power, without which other knowledge is of little worth. If Physical Science comes out of her laboratory or her dissecting-room, and forbids us to think of anything that does not fall within her cognizance, we must tell her that before we can obey her injunction, she will have to remake the highest of mamma's and unmake Man.