

or theology, the expression *Gnothi seauton* has been fully worked out, or that we know but little beyond the merest rudiments of the boundless stores of knowledge which lie therein concealed. To many of us it will, therefore, seem much more fitting that the two great sister civilizations, science and religion, should go forward, hand in hand, intent on the ascertaining of truth itself and the amelioration of the condition of the human race, rather than through the errors of man's judgment or the imperfection of his knowledge, the least semblance of conflict should be apparent.

Theories there are without end in every department of life's work but theories are not always the essential things to which we should pin our faith. It does not follow that the school-boy, when he has reached man's estate, should continue to abide by the dictum of his early preceptor. Had Galileo been content to accept the doctrine of his so-called superiors that the world did not move, but that the heavenly bodies, by their revolutions around the earth, gave rise to the phenomena of day and night, and had the successors of Galileo been content to have followed the same blind path, it is very possible that the science of astronomy, and, in fact, human knowledge in general, would have made much slower progress than it has done since that date. The mere dictum of any man, or of any body of men, will not at the present day, and should not, carry more than its proper weight in the face of an array of indisputable facts to the contrary. The great thing to guard carefully against is the rash putting forth of unsubstantiated theories as theories only; and what is even worse, when such a theory has been advanced, is the deliberate distortion of facts to its support when its weakness becomes apparent or its falsity is clear. This unfortunate condition of things is occasionally found in all the sciences. Thus in the science of geology we have had the fierce warfare of the school of the Neptunists, who hold that all the phenomena of the earth's surface were produced by the agency of water, against that of the Plutonists, who invoked the agency of fire alone as the solver of all the difficulties in the creative problem. Later, we have had the men who contended for the great continental ice sheet extending over the entire northern half of our land, against the advocates of iceberg action and local glaciation only, and so on throughout the chapter. People looking on from