

away forever and fallen back like a wave into the bosom of that ocean of unconscious life from which they rose for a moment." "Let us," says Frederick Harrison, in his address at the celebration of the "Festival of Humanity," "consecrate all our energies to the service of the only Supreme Being we can ever know, humanity."

This strange theory, it is true, recognizes the existence, necessity and power of religion, but presents a bundle of absurdities to meet wants so deep, real and abiding. Mr. Harrison calls us and the great suffering world, with its moral cravings and spiritual needs, to the shrine of humanity, and claims that it will furnish all we require as an object of devotion.

Not only do all intelligent religious thinkers see the hollowness and deception of this proposed "Religion of Humanity," and its complete inability to meet the demands of the religious sentiments of the race, but even Mr. Spencer, in a recent and now famous controversy conducted in the *Nineteenth Century*, with the apostle of this new faith, said that, instead of seeing anything to worship in the "Great Being Humanity," the contemplation of it is "calculated to excite feelings which it is best to keep out of consciousness;" and Sir James Stephens, referring to this worship, refuses adoration to "so stupid, ignorant and half-beast of a creature." And yet we are told that this little sect, doomed by the common sense of mankind to a sure and deserved extinction, have a revised version of Thomas-a-Kempis's "Imitation of Christ," from which the names of God and Christ are expunged, and the word humanity, with a capital H inserted; and they sing the Te Deum Laudamus, Time and Space and Progress and Light taking the place of God and Lord. And it is the utterance of such jargon as this they call the worship of humanity? Was there ever such a debasing of noble phraseology as this? The language of Theism and Christianity has been robbed of its glorious meaning, and a poor painted mockery placed in its room. Words which have been the inspiration of myriads of earth's noblest and most cultured minds, have been pauperized in the most deliberate and wanton manner, and we may well say, as we look at the verbal sepulchre left behind by these religious vandals, that "they