

unpleasant thing for a man to have to say plainly that he does not believe in Jesus Christ." Dr. Wace wrote this in the fulness of his Christian convictions and emotions, and, in one sense, it must be unpleasant for an earnest man to be out of touch on so great a question with the overwhelming majority of the truest and best of his countrymen ; not only because it breaks the harmony of their mental life, but also because it must suggest the often wonder, whether, after all, they may be right, and he be wrong. Still we must echo the words of our critic : "It ought *not* to be unpleasant to say that which one honestly believes or disbelieves." We are well assured that Dr. Wace has here misrepresented himself, for he would be the last to say otherwise, or for one moment allow unpleasantness to bar the way of duty.

Professor Huxley very frankly tells us the origin of the term "agnostic," and with that little bit of autobiography most thinkers will heartily sympathise. He says : "It came into my head as suggestively antithetic to the 'gnostic' of Church history, who professed to know so much about the very things of which I was ignorant." In this he was perfectly correct, for he did not know these things ; and so he was, in fact, an agnostic ; but neither did the others *know* them, and so they were, in fact, agnostics also, although they called themselves by a wrong name. Literally, all *believers* in Christianity are agnostics, though all agnostics are not believers.

The Professor properly, throughout his paper, treats the question as one of testimony and credibility, that is, of belief or unbelief, and therefore both gnosticism and agnosticism are out of court, and the article ought to have been headed "Unbelief." Our friend's notions of the value of testimony, and the nature of credibility, seem somewhat peculiar, but these points we leave to Dr. Wace. Meantime, it is most heartily to be wished that some harmony of difference might be discovered by which a man so cultured, so earnest, and so honest as Professor Huxley, might be welcomed by all cultured, earnest, and honest men as a brother student in the great universe of thought. He states the foundation principle of the agnostic to be, "Try all things ; hold fast that which is