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## RELIGIOUS CERTAINTIES; OR, "THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SHAKEN."\*

ALLUDING to the infant giant who is represented in mythology as strangling the serpents that were sent to kill him, Professor Huxley ventured, some years ago, to assert that "extinguished theologians lie about the cradle of every science as the strangled snakes beside that of Hercules."

In making this assertion, Mr. Huxley meant, of course, that every science has confuted some argument, or disproved some theory, or exploded some doctrine, once maintained by theologians; in short, that some school or some system of theology has been destroyed in part, if not in whole, by every branch of scientific study.

There are those, no doubt, who would resent this representation by retorting that, if critical inquiry has extinguished theological thinkers, it has extinguished scientific thinkers, too; and possibly the number of strangled scientists is equal to the number of strangled theologians. Let that be as it may. No practical purpose can be served by ridicule, retaliation or resentment.

In the opinion of all wise apologists, it is better, vastly better, to admit the force of what Prof. Huxley says, so far as what

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