ascertained by carefully safeguarded methods. We have been
wearied by conflicts between science and religion, materialistic
on the one hand, superstitions on the other ; traditional religion
entrenched against an insurgent science, both crudely conserva-
tive, or both narrow in vision and devoid of philosophical in-
sight.

Too often the empty husks of thought have been used as
buttresses of a conservatism from which the vital energy and liv-
ing fire have long since fled, while almost as invariably, the new
theory with its vivid enthusiasm is so swaddled in the crudest
wrappages that the prejudices of the learned against it are almost
to be condoned.

What is needed in this situation is a more general knowl-
edge and appreciation of those canons of research which the
most thorough and effective science has always maintained, and
especially such as are chiefly observed by the astronomer. The
careful observer in any field of research never regards a theory
as more than an hypothesis unless accumulated evidence has
broken down and cleared away all other and opposing theories.

The most fatal enemies of all newly acquired knowledge are
those who, regarding themselves as its friends, formulate a new
generalization from insufficient data, state it as a creed or a law,
and straightway regard all who do not accept it as enemies of
progress.

These pseudo-scientists are stout defenders of their theories.
To them the "law" is all-important ; the facts are treated
lightly. One may at any time find them measuring and modify-
ing their facts, ignoring those that do not fit their theory,
imagining or supplying others that do, abating or enhancing the
data in their eagerness to prove their theories true. They leap
at once from their conviction as to the existence of a new force
to a theory of its nature and purpose. The frailest possible
chain of evidence is sufficient to prove what they are already
convinced is true, and straightway their problem is solved.

Henceforth, their whole task is to bring new facts to *prove*
that the problem is solved. This method is opposed to all the