

new religion has so much to say, is the product of religion—the religion of the Cross. If, then, the Christians' God, to whom we are indebted for all that is purest and best in human character, in human society, and human history, is to be taken away from us, we must have something else in His stead. And this is the substitute which M. Auguste Comte *et al.* have invented to take His place.

Now, what is this abstraction? What is the true conception of humanity to which we are to look up, which we are to reverence, in which we are to trust, to which we are to give our allegiance and our homage? It is not quite easy to get a satisfactory answer to this question; and yet, until it is answered, no progress can be made in the study of this so-called religion. Before we can worship we must have some idea, some notion of the object of our worship. And as the object which the inventors of the Religion of Humanity seem to have in view is to get rid of the worship of a Being whom they allege to be unthinkable and unknowable; it is only fair to conclude that this, the last born of the deities, is thinkable and knowable; that is, that it is something imaginable, a clear and distinct mental image of which rises in the mind when it is directed towards it.

What is this image which rises in the mind of the worshipper of humanity when he appears in the presence of his deity, and prostrates himself before it? Is it the image of actual humanity as we find it in ourselves, including our appetites, propensities and passions, as it exists around us, including the worst as well as the best of what goes to make up the *tout ensemble* of society? Or is it humanity as it is depicted in history and as it is illustrated in the monuments and relics of bygone generations? In a word, is it humanity as it has existed in all the past, and as it now exists, fairly and impartially considered, nothing extenuating and setting down nought in malice, that is proposed to us as the object of worship, or of religious meditation? Is it the image of this that rises up before the mind of the worshipper of humanity when he is engaged in his devotions?

Of course, it is not this. The idea of making this the object