

because experience has shown that without unceasing watchfulness religion degenerates into superstition, and that of the cankers which corrupt human character superstition is the worst.

Religious knowledge has grown like all other knowledge. Partial truths are revealed or discovered. They are thought to be whole truth, and are consecrated as eternal and complete. We learn better, we find that we were too hasty, and had mistaken our own imaginations for ascertained realities. 'No truth, however sacred,' Cardinal Newman says, 'can stand against the reason in the long run, and hence it is that in the pagan world, when our Lord came, the last traces of the religious knowledge of former times was all but disappearing from those portions of the world where the intellect was active and had had a career.' What is the fact? In the early stages of the Greek and Roman nations certain opinions had been formed about the gods; and certain religious services had been instituted. In these traditions there was much that was grand and beautiful; there was much also that was monstrous and incredible. As civilization developed itself both conscience and intellect protested and declared that the pagan theology could not be wholly true. If the Olympian gods existed, they were not beings whom