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THE Agnostic is one who holds that he has no knowledge of God, or, indeed, that the human mind is incapable of reaching a knowledge of God. Though this creed is not new, it has reached its highest potency of expression in modern times, and the name by which it is designated is of very recent origin. The linguistic mintage we owe to Professor Huxley. Borrowing the word Agnostic from the Greek designation of that "unknown" God whose altar Paul saw at Athens, he invested the imported term with a metaphysical meaning to which the original was neutral and indifferent, and sent it forth to proclaim to the modern world a mental incompetency in regard to the knowing of God, which up to this time had been merely implied by the more general term of skepticism. The new name was coined in 1869. That an appellation was needed proves that the Agnostic sect was coming into prominence. The church it would supersede was an accomplished fact when at Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

The canonical writings of the Agnostic sect all antedate the year of its christening. We have not space here to examine them or even to enumerate their titles. But whether the authors be rationalistic or empirical philosophers, Christian divines or positivist scientists, the burden of their message is always the incapacity of the human mind to know anything