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## UNITARIANS AND THEISTS.

REFERRING to the article on "Liberal Judaism" by Mr. Claude G. Montefiore in the *JEWISH QUARTERLY REVIEW* for July, I am afraid many of your readers are quite unaware of the great divergences between "Theists" and "Unitarians" on some essential points.

No doubt there are individuals on both sides who are in absolute agreement, because *some* Unitarians are strictly Theistic: but this is not the case with the majority of Unitarians at present. And it is of the utmost importance that the differences should be known and recognized, without any casting of reproach on either side.

Unitarians generally claim to be, and to be called, "Christians," and lay great importance on the fact that they profess to derive their knowledge of God entirely from what Jesus of Nazareth was and what he taught. Theists, on the other hand, repudiate the name of "Christian," would not regard it as any honour, nor could it be truthfully applied to them; they do not base their knowledge of God on Jesus, or on any other man, living or dead, nor on what he taught. Theists base their knowledge of God only on the higher nature of man, Reason, Conscience, and Love, as interpreting the Universe around them, as sole guides to a true conception of God. Theists also are not only independent of Jesus Christ, but repudiate a great part of his teaching as false and pernicious, e. g. his belief in Devils, in the division of mankind into "chosen" and "not chosen," "saved" and "lost," in Everlasting Hell, and in his appeals based on hope of reward and fear of punishment, &c. &c. While the Unitarian professes to rely on "Revelation," the Theist rejects the idea as generally understood. While the Unitarian is in his own eyes a Christian, the Theist is anti-Christian, and deems it an honour and a privilege to be in open warfare with Christianity and the Scheme of Salvation, and the adulation of Christ.

CHARLES VOYSEY.

*August, 1900.*