

before been noticed, or had only been vaguely felt. "Have I been dreaming?" "How do I know?" "How can I prove to myself I am not now dreaming?" are the queries of an inner voice. The mystery of being seems to be overpowering. For the moment the mind is awakened, exalted, revealing in fitful gleams a new relation between it and the universe—a state of mind that can be experienced but not easily described. All this takes place in a moment. As mysteriously and quickly as this mood—shall I say inspiration—took possession of us, so quickly and mysteriously it leaves us. But it leaves us in a state of uncertainty. It leaves the mind in a questioning mood, sounding for a foundation, asking, "How do I know anything?" "How do I retain what I know as part of my intellectual self?" "Does my knowledge correspond with external fact?"

I purpose in this lecture to furnish something toward an explanation of the physics underlying the problems involved in these questions—to sketch for you in rapid strokes a theory which, as far as it goes, seems probable, and appears in harmony with the present state of science. The theory has grown in my mind from shadowy fragments presented during states of mind described in the introduction, and into which I have often been thrown while lecturing to my classes. The theme of many of these lectures, "The resolution of phenomena into modes of motion," was favorable alike to induce the state of mind referred to, and assist in the formation of the theory I venture to present to you. I have read so very little in the direction of the thought developed in this lecture that I do not know how much, or whether any part is original. Possibly it may prove to some to be something quite old in a new dress—a theory better developed elsewhere, but here presented from a new standpoint. Since I feel that I have been obliged to work it out for myself, I am conscious of many gaps, requiring to be filled at some future time, when I shall have more leisure for thought and study. All that I can be expected to do now will be, as indicated, to present you a short sketch. And although I fear that some parts