

8. Its cause, therefore, is one Thinker, and but one. That is, one Personal Intelligence, and but one.

The philosophy dominant at Yale College and at Harvard, at Berlin and at Halle, at Edinburgh and Oxford and Cambridge, is well represented by these incisive sentences from the ablest book on metaphysics Yale College has given to the world. "The universe," says President Porter, "is a *thought*, as well as a *thing*. As fraught with design, it reveals thought, as well as force. The thought includes the origination of the forces and their law, as well as the combination and use of them. These thoughts must include the whole universe. It follows, then, that the universe is controlled by a single thought, or the thought of an individual thinker."—"The Human Intellect," p. 661.)

Let us pause and cast ourselves abroad on the wing of imagination, through some small portion, at least, of the range of truth, disclosed by the facts that thought implies a thinker and that the thought of the universe is one. Take in your hand the mystic instrument called the spectroscope, and bring down light from the two planets which last evening I saw near each other in the infinite azure. Here arrives a far-traveled ray from Mars; here one from Saturn; here one from Sirius; here one from the North Star. It left that orb fifty years ago, and has not paused, and is here at last. Certain metals, when burned, always produce definite dark lines in the colored lights of the spectroscope. We know that zinc produces a line in a particular place, lead in another place, iron in another place; and we bring down this light of Mars, of Saturn, and of the North Star, and here are the very lines of zinc and iron and lead. Matter yonder, fifty years distant for light, we thus know to be much what it is here. Meteors have fallen on this earth; the dust of meteors has been absorbed into planets; and, for aught I know, in your arm there are particles that come from Sirius. The universe has light in it; and the laws of light are the same here and at the furthest point visible to the telescope. Light moves in straight lines here and in straight lines there. Gravitation is the same thing here and yonder. We cannot imagine a spot in the universe where the whole is less than a part, or where two straight lines can enclose a space, or where any self-evident truth is false. Thus we feel that the universe exhibits not only a plan, but a uniform plan. It exhibits not only thought, but harmonious thought. It is a *thing*, but it is a *thought*; and it is not merely a thought, without further definition. It is one thought, interiorly self-consistent; and not a fagot of self-contradictions. This immeasurable but incontrovertible unity is before our eyes. It demonstrates unity in the thought of the universe, and therefore unity in the Thinker. The universe exhibits one thought, and but one. Its cause, therefore, is one Thinker, and but one; one Personal Intelligence, and but one.

Adhere, without a particle of wavering, to the proposition that there cannot be a thought without a thinker. That is Des Cartes' fundamental axiom the corner-stone on which he placed himself face to face with all skepticism and unrest, and is the point of philosophy where certainty is firmest up to this hour. There cannot be a thought without a person. I think; therefore, I am a person.