

the higher education, would accept this frank and definite expression of their attitude to Philosophy. But it is the secret thought of many. Now, I believe that such an attitude is the result, solely and entirely, of misunderstanding as to the fundamental aim and spirit of Philosophy. It is only when the nature and purpose of philosophical study are not understood, or *misunderstood*, that the study itself is reprobated and requires defence. Once understood, it needs none. What I am anxious to do, then, in this address, is to explain, so far as the narrow limits permit, what Philosophy is, in the confidence that this explanation, in so far as it is successful, will be, at the same time, its best and sufficient defence.

Philosophy, then, is a kind, or rather a stage, of Knowledge. I say *stage* rather than *kind*, because all knowledge is essentially or in kind the same. In the lower you have always the germ of the higher; in the higher only the development of the lower. We may distinguish three great stages of Knowledge—(1) the ordinary or popular, (2) the scientific, and (3) the philosophical. Each of these, however, is only a stage in the development of the same knowledge. Ordinary knowledge naturally and inevitably *becomes* scientific; scientific knowledge, as naturally and inevitably, *becomes* philosophic. The higher is not *different* from the lower; it is only the lower followed out and made conscious of its own meaning. The lower finds in the higher its explanation; sees its own content reasoned out and developed. And Philosophy is just the final and perfect form which Knowledge, in its development from lower to higher, inevitably assumes.