

St Paul  
Sep 14 '84

My dear Henry,

We misjudged Kant when we concluded that he was not acquainted with Hume, because he thought that Hume would not have disallowed the axioms of Geometry as he did the necessary validity of the category of cause and effect.

It was not a matter of doubt upon the actual <sup>objection</sup> validity of these for here Kant must agree with him ~~it was doubt upon the~~ that Kant objects to. It was to the explanation Hume implies of these axioms Kant maintains and corrected me further.

to that it is impossible to obtain  
the cognitions of space and time im-  
pincally, hence I would be impos-  
sible to find the <sup>cause of the</sup> strength of belief  
in these axioms in the force of habit.  
As you remarked Hume is the  
only one of the school who has at-  
tempted Empirical exposition of  
these cognitions and I take your  
word for the futility of the attempt.

Kant says that if Hume had turned  
his attention to the explanation of  
these axioms he would have felt  
the necessity of some other explanation  
than Habit. And upon what little  
I know of Hume I write the statement  
that <sup>Kant's</sup> the statement is correct.

The question of space holds a not un-  
important place in the modern history  
of Philosophy. Its explanation is the  
type in the <sup>of the indigle</sup> <sup>moment</sup>. Upon the  
<sup>critique</sup>

immediate perception of extended matter  
alone hangs the possibility of the im-  
mediate knowledge of the external  
world. And I suppose Kant's  
critique and the Doctrine of  
immediate perception may be  
called the two greatest roots in  
modern philosophy. They are  
the two first internally logically  
& explanations of the perception  
all before was hazy or else grossly  
illogical. I have been trying  
lately to analyze the orthodox  
doctrine of immediate perception  
It strikes me as very ~~the~~ bungling  
to give the perception of the quality  
<sup>to me face all by</sup> extension and the perception of  
space itself to another. In my own  
consciousness I see no justification  
for separating the faculties that receive  
the extension <sup>of bodies</sup> and that which perceives

the space about these bodies. And yet upon the orthodox theory these must be separated. For our sense perception certainly does not perceive space but does perceive extended matter. To say that my perception of space comes by the same faculty as that which is supposed to tell me whether is an infinite and absolute sense to my poor division of faculties. Space belongs to the intellect and should be perceived by the faculties that perceive the objects of sense perception. Kant's theory is much superior to this in <sup>internal</sup> perception, but I see no escape from the blindest agnosticism I have been feeling more and more lately the

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need of the belief in God. There is nothing on this earth that is worth as much to man as the firm <sup>belief</sup> in the fatherhood of God. It is a feeling that surmounts every other and in itself ~~is~~ against any odds can make life a real pleasure because it will be greater than all other pleasures together. If we could get the Egyptian reverence for serpents to be beautifully represented by a man's serpent devouring all other pleasures and passions of courts the miseries of desert and war and with the daily staff in the hand the daily companion and assistant. A man needs an absorbing passion and nothing can absorb his whole

his whole nature. When I look  
with shamefacedness at my  
constant inefficiency, and feel  
that if that passion could take  
hold of my soul with its mighty  
power that I might be all that  
Jewish to be. But no longer can  
I even throw myself into chaste  
and blindly as I felt I could  
six months ago.

"That I knew when I might  
find him that I might soon  
come into his presence." I  
should shrink from losing  
a man who held up his belief in  
God as I would from murder.

We had a sort of reunion  
the other night Saturday  
at Minnetonka near Minneapolis.  
Slater Craavath Matter  
W. D. Jones Gale and myself.

We spent a good part of the af-  
ternoon in arguing about O.  
Craavath is bitterly set against  
her. Alred Sevas not much sur-  
prised when I found out what  
Sevas. (He smokes drinks and  
does hardly any home in pat-  
ronizing houses of ill fame.) He  
is a perfect man of the world of  
an extra selfish cast - with  
a success I suppose. I do not  
know that his not Charles per-  
sonally, but I should be very much  
surprised to find that was still  
his only my opinion. But he is cer-  
tainly has no moral perceptions or else  
has suppressed them, that would  
keep him from being a complete  
debauched. He will never be one  
I think. He will make money  
and be a worldly success.

It gave me just such feelings  
as you describe yourself as  
having on a certain occasion. It  
made me feel weak, as if I had  
met an incarnation of the world  
that and the Devil used was  
in some way mastered by it.  
It has more power than I have.  
And my nature revolts against  
it. I could have read the same  
upon the prosperity of the wicked  
with appreciation. I had a sense  
of the inequality of the moral  
world that such a fellow, who  
had no principle of true nobility  
in him was yet happy and like  
ly to be a success, while I with  
the same habits would be on the

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certain road to destruction and  
should see nothing but justice in  
it. My whole nature was set on edge  
by him. I knew that he would give at  
what was my life and food and that  
the practical world was behind  
him and would side with him if he  
only succeeded. This worldly success  
hangs over me like a nightmare  
and has a power which dashes  
all my philosophy and appreciation  
~~into~~ my moral sense and ideal  
into pitiable insignificance, what  
an indignity! I ought to be supe-  
rior to such men. I ought to be so  
high above that I could only pity  
them and yet I feel myself infe-  
rior in force, and this grinding up

in me until I feel something ab-  
ject. My miserable failure  
at Berlin might stand yet  
before <sup>me</sup> as the probable <sup>cause</sup> ~~result~~  
of my life as far as success is  
concerned. I want to be able to  
get away from myself to feel  
strongth, lifting me out of my-  
self meeting my miserable in-  
firmities. I want all the sympa-  
thy that can come only from infinite  
compassion, pity, and strength.

Oh that I knew when I might find them  
that I might even come into this presence.

I think you will understand  
this if you don't I do not know any-  
body who will.

I have through when in a  
work and a half probably and  
nothing before I me.

Well goodnight Old Boy  
see you all. Good night.

Fair Haven Minn.  
Oct 16 1884

My Dear Henry:

I have been impa-  
tiently waiting for several months  
for something from you. And  
have been much grieved by its  
non appearance. I now turn  
upon Philopoeia subjects and read  
poetry hardly but what it brings  
you up with it and I much  
desire to hear from you. I can-  
not from this work write you  
the letter I want to. I am  
traveling upon a line which is  
being furrowed from the Red River  
Valley to Minneapolis it is cal-  
led the Minneapolis and Paci-

fic because it ~~does~~ does not run  
out of the state. I commenced  
on the work the 19 of September  
and shall be in Minneapolis  
in three weeks from date in  
all probability; what I shall do  
then I have not the slightest  
idea. My wages are slightly in  
provision \$50. a month and  
expenses. How long I shall stick  
to this business I don't know. If  
I could get a good paying job  
which would hold me for sev-  
eral years I should be perfectly  
satisfied but these jobs are  
hard to find. I had a pointer to  
some such work in mind but  
I am very dubious of obtaining  
anything there. As I am quite  
able to get off at any spending  
in any other direction

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Did you stick the Perry on my  
stickle pointer. You must then  
enjoyed seeing him I wish  
I had been in St Paul when  
he went through both for seeing  
him and inquiring about you

How are the clouds pan-  
ning out. Has that reciprocity  
Treaty passed out as desired  
How is Peck doing is it true  
he married Miss Sprule  
this summer? I must stop  
now and go to bed for we have  
to pile out at 5 A.M. we are  
camping out and receiving it  
in true style.

Yours most aff.

W. H. M.  
Address D. and will be forward



Minnneapolis  
Dec 4/884

My dear Henry, I have only a moment for a word. Your letter reached me on the line. Am back in the city. Undecided what to do. There is an opening for a Latin school here. I would <sup>very</sup> like it had the right backing. If I could get 500. could you get the same for a start. Of course I should secure enough pupils before the scheme was retent on to insure paying expenses first year. Answer instantly. Will write about myself in a day or two.

With a great deal of love  
old boy.

J.  
327 Nicollet Ave  
Minneapolis  
Minn.

Enjoyed your mountain  
experiences greatly. The letter  
travelled all over the NW.  
to reach me.