

7.
The precept
of science
and that of
philosophy.

For my present purpose it is sufficient to say that, starting with language and words, two roads are open for our reflection—*i.e.*, for finding their underlying meaning: the one leads outside, the other inside; the precept of the first was, as we have seen, *circumspice*, look around you; the precept of the other is *introspice*, look inside you. Broadly speaking, the former is the precept of science, the principle of scientific thought and progress; the latter is the precept of philosophy, the principle of philosophical thought and insight.

This distinction between the two ways, which are those of scientific thought on the one side and of philosophical thought on the other, also helps us to realise the great difficulty which besets all philosophical reasoning. The way outside leads us into the world of the many things that exist not only for ourselves but also for our fellow-men whom we address. The scientific thinker, in appealing to the things and phenomena of nature, can invite the student or the reader to follow him into the observatory, the laboratory, the museum, the dissecting-room, or the world of nature herself, there to seek and find the same things as he describes, to repeat the observations which he has made, or to go through the experiments which he has instituted. Even the mathematical formula furnishes the same starting-point for him who first wrote it down as for him who follows. Thus the scientific thinker appeals to something that under certain conditions is accessible to others, being the common object of thought and investigation.

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External
object com-

It will at once be seen that this is not the case if we turn our thoughts inside, if we have to look for the mean-