

## CHAPTER III.

## OF EXISTENCE, REALITY, AND VALUE.

## I.

IN the foregoing pages we have adhered to the popular or common-sense view that there are two distinct worlds or regions of existence—the outer World and the inner World. At the same time we have maintained that the outer World or the physical universe exists for every one of us individually only in so far as each one of us is able to think about it or to experience it in some form or other, be it as Sensations, Perceptions, Ideas, Feelings, Desires, Volitions, or any other conscious state by whatever term we may describe it.

The most general term which comprises all these different forms of inner existence is Experience, and we may thus call the inner World the world of Conscious Experience. No existence of any kind whatever, whether it appear to be very near to us or very far removed, exists for us at all except it has or had at some time a place in the all-comprehensive stream of our thoughts or in the changing firmament of our consciousness.

This fact can be brought home to unbelieving beginners in philosophy by the following contemplation.