

In our case the terms with which we have been latterly occupied require in a similar way to be subjected to a critical examination.

For our present purposes it is, for instance, of great importance to dwell at some length on what was said in chapter iii. as to the difference between Existence and Reality.

Common speech does not closely define the meaning of these terms. And this attempt to define clearly and separately terms which common speech uses indiscriminately and negligently may seem to some of my readers to be pedantic. They may maintain that such minute distinction, such hair-splitting, is unnecessary.

Against this we may hold that though not consciously carried out, such a process produces unconsciously in good writers to a large extent that indefinable excellence of style which we so often admire and are so rarely able to imitate.

In dealing, moreover, with mental images and ideas which are difficult to fix, and only communicable in words and terms of language, such a process of definition is indispensable.

For our object is not to write with elegance, but to induce our readers to form, in their own minds, those ideas and conceptions which we are talking about. It will, therefore, be necessary to recall the difference between such terms as Existence and Reality. The fact that we have two words which appear to a large extent synonymous, indicates that there is an underlying difference of meaning pointing to different ideas; and these different ideas must have resulted from different experiences, sensations, or perceptions.