

they are, in their nature, as perfectly distinct as the subjects in which they occur; that is, as *mind* is distinct from *matter*; and they cannot, therefore, be conceived by us as having the slightest resemblance the one to the other. Yet sensations invariably suggest to the mind ideas, not only of the existence of an external agent as producing them, but also of various qualities and attributes belonging to these agents; and the term *Perception* expresses the belief, or rather the irresistible conviction, thus forced upon us, of the real existence of these external agents, which we conceive as constituting the material world.

Various questions here present themselves concerning the origin, the formation, and the laws of our perceptions. This vast field of curious but difficult inquiry, situated on the confines of the two great departments of human knowledge, (of which the one relates to the phenomena of matter, and the other to those of mind,) requires for its successful cultivation the combined efforts of the physiologist and the metaphysician. For although our sensations are purely mental affections, yet inasmuch as they are immediately dependent on physical causes, they are regulated by the physical laws of the living frame; whereas the perceptions derived from these sensations, being the results of intellectual processes, are subject rather to the laws which regulate mental than physical phenomena. It is certain, from innumerable facts, that in the present state of our existence, the operations of the mind are conducted by the instrumentality of our bodily organs; and that unless the brain be in a healthy condition, these operations become disordered, or altogether cease. As the eye and the ear are the instruments by which we see and hear, so the brain is the material instrument by which we retrace and combine ideas, and by which we remember, we reason, we invent. Sudden pressure on this organ, as in a stroke of apoplexy, puts a total stop to all these operations of the mind. If the pressure be of a nature to admit of remedy, and has not injured the texture of the brain, recovery may take place; and immediately