

first glance; sensations of force, and repeated a thousand times, are required before their minds will be influenced to compare them, and form ideas.

The consciousness of our existence being composed, then, not only of our actual sensations, but of the train of ideas which gave rise to the comparison of our sensations, and of our past existences, it is evident that the more ideas we have, the more certain we are of our existence; that the more we have of intellectual capacity, the more we exist; that it is by the power of reflection alone that we are certain of our past existence, and view our future one; the idea of futurity being nothing more than a comparison of the present with the past inverted, since in this light the present is past, and the future present.

This power of reflection being denied to animals, it is certain they cannot form ideas, and consequently their consciousness of existence is less sure, and less extensive than ours. Having no idea of time, no knowledge of the past, nor conception of the future, their consciousness of existence is simple, depends solely on the sensations which actually affect them, and consists in the internal sentiment which these sensations produce.