

19th Jan^r 1792

Introductory Lecture

Knowledge is a term expressing a certain state of the understanding, and is incapable of definition.

Subjects of human knowledge existences - relations - Things - Properties

Of all existences that of our own is to us the most certain - I feel that I exist, and my thoughts or the consciousness of this my own existence is accompanied with the highest degree of conviction.

Struck with this the great Descartes &c - Cogito ergo sum -

Great multiplicity of our wants with the difficulty of supplying them serve constantly to turn our attention to external objects - Instruments of all our pleasures and all our pains

We acquire our knowledge of external objects by means of the five senses

The Senses are the organs by a ^{what's} perception of the Object, and believe of its existence are obtained —

— Sensation the language of Nature informing us of the existence of her works and Perception the interpretation of that Language

— A constant coincidence of the sensation with the object, begets a belief in the Testimony of the Senses — foundations of all our Knowledge — Examples —

— Experience, frequent repetition necessary
Examples — Eye — touch — Taste —