

Charles Sanders Peirce Quotes

*Men, Science, Thinking, Ideas, Mean, Law, Mind, May, Facts, Character, Math,
Believe, Essence, Truth, Real, Reality, Doubt, Mathematics, Philosophy, Past*

Every new concept first comes to the mind in a judgment.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

We do not really think, we are barely conscious, until something goes wrong.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The entire universe is perfused with signs, if it is not composed exclusively of signs.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The pragmatist knows that doubt is an art which has to be acquired with difficulty.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

It is... easy to be certain. One has only to be sufficiently vague.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

It is not knowing, but the love of learning, that characterizes the scientific man.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

My language is the sum total of myself.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The essence of belief is the establishment of a habit; and different beliefs are distinguished by the different modes of action to which they give rise.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The definition of definition is at bottom just what the maxim of pragmatism expresses.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

We should chiefly depend not upon that department of the soul which is most superficial and fallible (our reason), but upon that department that is deep and sure, which is instinct.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

There is a kink in my damned brain that prevents me from thinking as other people think.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

We cannot begin with complete doubt.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Generality is, indeed, an indispensable ingredient of reality; for mere individual existence or actuality without any regularity whatever is a nullity. Chaos is pure nothing.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

A hypothesis is something which looks as if it might be true and were true, and which is capable of verification or refutation by comparison with facts.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

A true proposition is a proposition belief which would never lead to such disappointment so long as the proposition is not understood otherwise than it was intended.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Truly, that reason upon which we plume ourselves, though it may answer for little things, yet for great decisions is hardly surer than a toss up.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

... and it is probably that there is some secret here which remains to be discovered.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

It is impossible not to envy the man who can dismiss reason, although we know how it must turn out at last.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

All the evolution we know of proceeds from the vague to the definite.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

All the progress we have made in philosophy ... is the result of that methodical skepticism which is the element of human freedom.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Mathematics is purely hypothetical: it produces nothing but conditional propositions.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

There is not a single truth of science upon which we ought to bet more than about a million of millions to one.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Mere imagination would indeed be mere trifling; only no imagination is mere .

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The idea does not belong to the soul; it is the soul that belongs to the idea.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Bad reasoning as well as good reasoning is possible; and this fact is the foundation of the practical side of logic.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Every man is fully satisfied that there is such a thing as truth, or he

would not ask any question.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

If man were immortal he could be perfectly sure of seeing the day when everything in which he had trusted should betray his trust.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The universe ought to be presumed too vast to have any character.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Mathematics is distinguished from all other sciences except only ethics, in standing in no need of ethics.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

All the greatest achievements of mind have been beyond the power of unaided individuals.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

It is a common observation that those who dwell continually upon their expectations are apt to become oblivious to the requirements of their actual situation.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Effort supposes resistance.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Unless man have a natural bent in accordance with nature's, he has no chance of understanding nature at all.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

By an object, I mean anything that we can think, i.e. anything we can talk about.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

This branch of mathematics [Probability] is the only one, I believe, in which good writers frequently get results which are entirely erroneous.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

And what, then, is belief? It is the demi-cadence which closes a musical phrase in the symphony of our intellectual life.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The one [the logician] studies the science of drawing conclusions, the other [the mathematician] the science which draws necessary conclusions.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Still, it will sometimes strike a scientific man that the philosophers have been less intent on finding out what the facts are, than on inquiring what belief is most in harmony with their system.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

When an image is said to be singular, it is meant that it is absolutely determinate in all respects. Every possible character, or the negative thereof, must be true of such an image.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Fate then is that necessity by which a certain result will surely be brought to pass according to the natural course of events however we may vary the particular circumstances which precede the event.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Law is par excellence the thing that wants a reason. Now the only possible way of accounting for the laws of nature, and for uniformity in general, is to suppose them results of evolution.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

It is a common observation that a science first begins to be exact when

it is quantitatively treated. What are called the exact sciences are no others than the mathematical ones.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

Another characteristic of mathematical thought is that it can have no success where it cannot generalize.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

The essence of belief is the establishment of a habit.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

We, one and all of us, have an instinct to pray; and this fact constitutes an invitation from God to pray.

~Charles Sanders Peirce

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