

# SCIENCE

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## THE SCIENCES OF THE IDEAL.\*

I SHALL not attempt, in this address, either to justify or to criticize the name, normative science, under which the doc-

\* Address for the St. Louis Congress of Arts and Science, before the Division of Normative Science.

trines which constitute this division are grouped. It is enough for my purpose to recognize at the outset that I am required, by the plans of this congress, to explain what scientific interests seem to me to be common to the work of the philosophers and of the mathematicians. The task is one which makes severe demands upon the indulgence of the listener, and upon the expository powers of the speaker, but it is a task for which the present age has well prepared the way. The spirit which Descartes and Leibniz illustrated seems likely soon to become, in a new and higher sense, prominent in science. The mathematicians are becoming more and more philosophical. The philosophers, in the near future, will become, I believe, more and more mathematical. It is my office to indicate, as well as the brief time and my poor powers may permit, why this ought to be so.

To this end I shall first point out what is that most general community of interest which unites all the sciences that belong to our division. Then I shall indicate what type of recent and special scientific work most obviously bears upon the tasks of all of us alike. Thirdly, I shall state some results and problems to which this type of scientific work has given rise, and shall try to show what promise we have of an early increase of insight regarding our common interests.

## I.

The most general community of interest which unites the various scientific activities

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