

TO CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE, DECEMBER 27, 1893<sup>125</sup>

Hotel New Netherland  
New York.

Dec. 27, 1893

My Dear Peirce:—

I have received your letter, enclosing the prospectus of your proposed philosophical publication.<sup>126</sup> As you know, I have long wished to see the task of whose first results you have already given some very important though still, as I know, but fragmentary indications, put into adequate and permanent form. What has so far appeared has been so novel, so stimulating, so profound in many of its general conceptions, so ingenious in its combinations, that I only express my natural appreciation of your genius when I say that I deeply desire to see the finished product, and I am sure that the enterprise deserves the support of every lover of philosophic progress in this country.

As you know, in saying this, I do not mean to express either in advance, or as to what has already appeared, any unqualified agreement. You know that you and I have more than once found ourselves in disagreement, and has always taken a certain natural delight in expressing our disagreements. Where I can I want to learn from you; and I have very much to learn in this as in all other ways. Where I don't agree, I shall always know that you want the clearest expression of disagreement. The cheerful conflicts of philosophical students will doubtless long endure, and will be enjoyed. I shall doubtless have my chance to share them with you. But disagreement, where it exists, is perfectly compatible with the admiration that I feel for you; and, meanwhile, I am also well aware of many points of agreement between us, which I much prize.

<sup>125</sup> ALS. Peirce Papers. HL.

<sup>126</sup> Peirce had circulated a prospectus for a proposed twelve-volume work, *The Principles of Philosophy; or, Logic, Physics, and Psychics, Considered as a Unity, in Light of the Nineteenth Century*. This work and an edition of Petrus Peregrinus' *On the Loadstone* were to be sold by subscription, but because of an insufficiency of subscribers, the enterprise failed and neither work was published. See Max H. Fisch and Jackson I. Cope, "Peirce at the Johns Hopkins University," *Studies in the Philosophy of Charles Sanders Peirce*, ed. Philip P. Wiener and Frederic H. Young (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1952), p. 310.

If my earnest expression of a wish that you should find ample subscribers for your enterprise can induce anybody to join your band, I shall be glad to have you use my letter, informal and hasty though it is, at your pleasure.

Please also count me amongst your subscribers for the whole series announced in your circular.—

Yours Very Truly  
Josiah Royce.