

TO CHARLES SANDERS PEIRCE, MARCH 4, 1914¹⁹

103 Irving St.
Cambridge, Mass.
March 4, 1914.

Dear Mr. Peirce:—

It is long since I have had time to write to you. I hope that your health is good.²⁰ I venture to enclose to you a recent paper of my own, about which I want to say a word, since you are mentioned in the paper, and the topic may interest you, although it will not be new to you.²¹

A company of my colleagues, younger and older, including several medical men, recently proposed to form a society for the general discussion of various scientific questions, including "Vitalism." They asked me to take some part; so, at the opening meeting, I read them a comparative review of various methods that interest different sciences. The paper is of course very general and elementary. Of course I used, for my purpose, your papers and ideas,

¹⁸ Brett replied to Royce on January 27, 1914, outlining plans to reissue *Herbert Spencer* with the Macmillan imprint. These plans were never carried out.

¹⁹ ALS. Peirce Papers. HL. First three sentences of the second paragraph are printed in Cotton, *Royce on the Human Self*, p. 302.

²⁰ Peirce died on April 14, 1914.

²¹ The paper appears to have been "The Mechanical, the Historical and the Statistical," subsequently published in *Science*, n.s., 39 (1914): 551-66, and reprinted in *RLE*, pp. 35-62. On March 3, 1914, the night before writing this letter, Royce read this paper to his seminar. See *Josiah Royce's Seminar, 1913-1914*, ed. Grover Smith (New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1963): pp. 128-30.

as well as others. I hope that my acknowledgement of my indebtedness to you is sufficient for the occasion, which was a semi-private one, with seventeen persons present.

I may print the paper. It otherwise explains itself. You are mentioned on pp. 25 and 32 of the mimeographed copy which I send you herewith. Please excuse mistakes of copyist. I often talk of you in my seminary to my students of logic.—

Yours Truly

Josiah Royce

Professor E. C. Pickering was present at the meeting and spoke with warm appreciation of your early photometric contributions to the *Observatory Annals*.²²