Term: Firstness
Quote: Firstness is the mode or element of being by which any subject is such as it is, positively and regardless of everything else; or rather, the category is not bound down to this particular conception but is the element which is characteristic and peculiar in this definition and is a prominent ingredient in the ideas of quality, qualitativeness, absoluteness, originality, variety, chance, possibility, form, essence, feeling, etc.
References: Peirce, 1983, p. 72; MS [R] L107:22
Date of Quote: 1904
Editorial Annotations: This quote has been taken from Kenneth Laine Ketner's 1983 reconstruction of Peirce's 'Autobiography'
URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-brief-intellectual-autobiography-charles-sanders-peirce-15