Three kinds of elements can be discerned in whatever comes before the mind. The first is the element of Quality, such, for example, as Red; and including all the positive suchness of the idea in itself, as mere ideal suchness. It is that which is such as it is, positively and quite irrespective of anything else. I call this element the element of Firstness. Besides its direct presence we attribute to things out of us natures of their own irrespective of actual reactions.


References: MS [R] 462:74-76

Date of Quote: 1903

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-csps-lowell-lectures-1903-2nd-draught-3rd-lecture-4