The commodious and compact representation in our minds, or icon of our hopes about beliefs[,] is that there is something fixed and not subject to our wills called the *reality*, and that our beliefs come to shape themselves more and more under experience in conformity to that reality. So far as they accord with it we call them *true*. This is a handy ideal –. this of reality; – but it represents nothing but a hope. We have no warrant for averring that belief of all kinds will get more and more fixed until its variations become indefinitely small. We simply try to fix belief, and trying to do anything implies a hope that we shall to some extent succeed. The pretense of some philosophers that there is any justification for a broader “presupposition” that that is unfounded.


**References:** MS [R] 408:146-7

**Date of Quote:** 1893

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-grand-logic-1893-division-iii-substantial-study-logic-chapter-vi-essence-8