**Term:** Abduction

**Quote:** Inference is any act of deliberate assent, in any degree, however slight, which a man accords to a proposition because he thinks that assent warranted by his already accorded assent to another proposition or propositions, called the premises. It is one act of inference to adopt a hypothesis on probation. Such an act may be called an *abduction*. It is an act of the same kind, when a hypothesis is merely suggested as possible worth consideration. For even then some degree of favor is extended to it.


**References:** MS [R] 873:3 (var.); HP 2:912

**Date of Quote:** 1901

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-humes-argument-against-miracles-and-idea-natural-law-hume