**Term:** Experience  
**Quote:** The *phaneron*, as I now call it, the sum total all of the contents of human consciousness, which I believe is about what you (borrowing the term of Avenarius) call *pure experience*, - but I do not admit the point of view of Avenarius to be correct or to be consonant to any pragmatism, nor to yours, in particular, and therefore I do not like that phrase. For me *experience* is what life has forced upon us, - a vague idea no doubt. But my *phaneron* is not limited to what is *forced* upon us; it also embraces all that we most capriciously conjure up, not *objects* only but all modes of contents of cognitional consciousness.  
**References:** NEM 3:834  
**Date of Quote:** 1905  
**URL:** [http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-william-james-3](http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-william-james-3)