An *ens rationis* may be defined as a subject whose being consists in a Secondness, or fact, concerning something else. Its being is thus of the nature of Thirdness, or thought. Any abstraction, such as Truth or Justice, is an *ens rationis*. That does not prevent Truth and Justice from being real powers in the world without any figure of speech.


**References:** MS [R] 469:8

**Date of Quote:** 1903

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-lowell-lectures-1903-lecture-5-vol-1