

'Law' (pub. 19.03.18-16:43). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-draft-nichols-review-c-11>.

---

**Term:** Law

**Quote:** ...the essence of law consists in its being a conditional truth about the indefinite future, and never can become matter of actual fact. Or we may say it is such a truth that upon the knowledge of it a perpetual or indefinitely lasting conditional expectation may be founded. We say "indefinitely lasting" because as a general rule our laws are vaguely understood to endure only so long as "the present state of things" continues; but that state of things may endure forever, or if it ceases, may return some day.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1904 [c.]). *Draft of Nichols Review [C]*. MS [R] 1476.

**References:** MS [R] 1476:10

**Date of** 1904 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-draft-nichols-review-c-11>