

**PARADOXICAL
PHILOSOPHY. A SEQUEL
TO THE UNSEEN UNIVERSE**

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Paradoxical Philosophy. A Sequel to the Unseen Universe by Balfour Stewart

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BALFOUR STEWART

**PARADOXICAL
PHILOSOPHY. A SEQUEL
TO THE UNSEEN UNIVERSE**

From floating elements in chaos hurl'd,
Self-form'd of atoms, sprang the infant world.
No great *First Cause* inspired the happy plot,
But all was matter, and no matter what.
Atoms, attracted by some law occult,
Settling in spheres, the globe was the result ;
Pure child of *Chance*, which still directs the ball,
As rotatory atoms rise or fall.

I sing how casual bricks in airy climb
Encountered casual horse-hair, casual lime,
How rafters, borne through wondering clouds elate,
Kissed in their slope blue elemental slate.

Oh! happy age when convert Christians read
No sacred writings but the Pagan creed,
Oh! happy age when, spurning Newton's dreams,
Our poets' sons recite Lucretian themes,
Abjure the idle systems of their youth,
And turn again to atoms and to truth!—HORACE SMITH.

Yesterday, when weary with writing, and my mind quite dusty with considering these atoms, I was called to supper, and a salad I had asked for was set before me. 'It seems then,' said I aloud, 'that if pewter dishes, leaves of lettuce, grains of salt, drops of water, vinegar and oil, and slices of eggs, had been floating about in the air from all eternity, it might at last happen by chance that there would come a salad.' 'Yes,' says my wife, 'but *not so nice and well-dressed as this of mine is.*'—KEPLER.



PARADOXICAL PHILOSOPHY

A SEQUEL TO

THE UNSEEN UNIVERSE

In te, Domine, speravi, non confundar in aeternum.



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MDCCLXXVIII.

255 . i 357.

EGO SVM RESVRRECTIO ET VITA
QVI CREDIT IN ME ETIAM SI MORTVVS FVERIT
VIVET.

'Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Chelst came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty to judge both the quick and dead, *we may rise to the life immortal*, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.
Amen.'

TO
THE PRESENT AND FORMER PRESIDENTS
AND THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE
PARADOXICAL,
THIS BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE SOCIETY'S JUBILEE MEETING
IS DEDICATED BY
THE EDITORS.

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PREFACE.

A WORD or two may perhaps be necessary as to the form in which this book is cast.

The exigencies of the subject, and not any thought of imitating Peacock or Mallock—far less Christopher North, Bunyan, or Plato—absolutely *dictated* the conversational style.

The Paradoxical Society is a real and living power, well known far beyond its membership; and the Editors have to record with gratitude the assistance rendered to them by various members of that body in the compilation of this little volume.

October, 1878.

