

**THE CONSERVATION OF
ENERGY: BEING AN
ELEMENTARY TREATISE
ON ENERGY AND ITS LAWS**

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The Conservation of Energy: Being an Elementary Treatise on Energy and Its Laws by Balfour Stewart

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THE
CONSERVATION OF ENERGY

BEING AN ELEMENTARY TREATISE

ON ENERGY AND ITS LAWS

BY

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WITH FOURTEEN ILLUSTRATIONS

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PREFACE.

WE may regard the Universe in the light of a vast physical machine, and our knowledge of it may be conveniently divided into two branches.

The one of these embraces what we know regarding the structure of the machine itself, and the other what we know regarding its method of working.

It has appeared to the author that, in a treatise like this, these two branches of knowledge ought as much as possible to be studied together, and he has therefore endeavoured to adopt this course in the following pages. He has regarded a universe composed of atoms with some sort of medium between them as the machine, and the laws of energy as the laws of working of this machine.

The first chapter embraces what we know regarding atoms, and gives also a definition of Energy. The various forces and energies of nature are thereafter enumerated, and the law of Conservation is stated. Then follow the various transmutations of Energy, according to a list, for which the author is indebted to Prof. Tait. The fifth chapter gives a short historical sketch of the subject, ending with the law of Dissipation; while the sixth and last chapter gives some account of the position of living beings in this universe of Energy.

*The Owens College, Manchester,
August, 1873.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

WHAT IS ENERGY?

| | ARTICLE | PAGE |
|---|---------|--------|
| <i>Our Ignorance of Individuals</i> | 1—4. | ... 1 |
| In the Organic World | 5, 6 | ... 3 |
| In the Inorganic World | 7—9 | ... 5 |
| Activity of Molecules | 10, 11 | ... 7 |
| <i>Action and Reaction, Equal and Opposite.</i> | | |
| Illustrated by a Vessel of Goldfish | 12 | ... 8 |
| " by a Rifle | 13, 14 | ... 9 |
| " by a Falling Stone | 15, 16 | ... 11 |
| <i>The Rifle further considered</i> | 17 | ... 12 |
| The Rifle Ball possesses Energy | 18 | ... 13 |
| Definition of Energy | 19 | ... 13 |
| Energy is proportional to Mass | 20 | ... 14 |
| It is not simply proportional to Velocity | 21, 22 | ... 14 |
| <i>Definition of Work</i> | 23 | ... 15 |
| Rule for measuring Work | 24 | ... 16 |

| | ARTICLE | PAGE |
|---|---------|--------|
| <i>Relation between Velocity and Energy.</i> | | |
| Definition of Velocity | 25 | ... 16 |
| Kilogramme Weight shot upwards | 26, 27 | ... 17 |
| Energy proportional to Square of Velocity | 28 | ... 19 |
| Examples | 29 | ... 20 |
| <i>Resistance and Buoyancy of Atmosphere</i> | | |
| Disregarded | 30 | ... 20 |
| Energy independent of Direction of Motion | 31 | ... 21 |
| Other Forces besides Gravity | 32, 33 | ... 21 |

CHAPTER II.

MECHANICAL ENERGY AND ITS CHANGE INTO HEAT.

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| <i>Energy of Position.</i> | | |
| A Stone high up | 34 | ... 23 |
| A Head of Water | 35 | ... 24 |
| A Cross-bow bent—a Watch wound up | 36 | ... 25 |
| Advantage of Position | 37 | ... 26 |
| <i>Transmutations of Visible Energy.</i> | | |
| A Kilogramme shot upwards | 38 | ... 27 |
| A Kilogramme descending | 39 | ... 28 |
| Velocity in the Inclined Plane | 40, 41 | ... 28 |
| <i>Functions of a Machine.</i> | | |
| A Machine merely transmutes Energy | 42 | ... 30 |
| This Illustrated by a Set of Pulleys | 42 | ... 30 |
| " by a Hydrostatic Press | 43 | ... 32 |
| <i>Principle of Virtual Velocities (What we gain in power we lose in space).</i> | | |
| First clearly defined by Galileo | 44 | ... 33 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

ix

| | ARTICLE | PAGE |
|--|---------|--------|
| Illustrated by a Lever | 44 | ... 84 |
| „ by an Inclined Plane | 45 | ... 84 |
| <i>What Friction and Percussion do.</i> | | |
| Friction converts Energy into a less useful | | |
| Form | 46 | ... 35 |
| Percussion does the same | 47 | ... 36 |
| When Friction and Percussion destroy | | |
| Motion, Heat appears : | 48 | ... 37 |
| <i>Heat a species of Motion</i> | | |
| Davy's Experiments | 49—51 | ... 38 |
| Bumford's Experiments | 52 | ... 39 |
| Argument derived from these | 53—55 | ... 39 |
| <i>Heat a Backward and Forward Motion.</i> | | |
| A Heated Substance not in Motion as a whole | 56 | ... 41 |
| Analogy between Heat and Sound | 57 | ... 42 |
| <i>Mechanical Equivalent of Heat.</i> | | |
| Heating Effects proportional to Energy | 58 | ... 43 |
| Joule's Experiments | 59—61 | ... 44 |
| Value of Heat unit | 62 | ... 46 |
| <i>There are other Varieties of Energy</i> | 63 | ... 47 |

CHAPTER III.

THE FORCES AND ENERGIES OF NATURE:
THE LAW OF CONSERVATION.

| | | |
|---|----|--------|
| <i>Connexion between the Energies and Forces of</i> | | |
| <i>Nature</i> | 64 | ... 48 |
| <i>Forces of Nature enumerated.</i> | | |
| (1) Gravitation: its Law of Action | 65 | ... 48 |