

has gone so far shall go farther in the same line. Out of the one unvarying fund of motion in the universe—unvarying in amount, but infinitely convertible and reconvertible in form—how little, thus far, has been transformed into the highest form—the form of thought, emotion, and volition! What splendid progress still remains to be accomplished, until the various correlated forces of the world—the motion, gravitation, light, heat, electricity, chemical action, and vegetable and animal life—shall all have been transmuted into their equivalents in mathematical and metaphysical reasoning, in imagination of beauty and sublimity, in far-seeing contrivance of means to ends, in meditation of righteousness and holiness, in tender mercy, in long-suffering, in forgiveness, in love; for by the very “first principles” of evolution all these same mental acts are measurable by their equivalents in foot-pounds; and just as it is conceivable and probable that the total forces of the universe once existed in the sole form of molecular motion, so it is not only conceivable, but wholly possible, that all these forces may by-and-by be transmuted into the sole form of mental action—nay, more: since matter itself is known to us only as a mode of force, being manifested simply by equivalents of resistance or of gravitation, it results that matter also is capable of being commuted into the various correlated modes of motion, of which mental action is one; and thus that the whole universe may come to exist as a spiritual being, as thought, emotion, volition, wisdom, love, might.

This is the splendid consummation of the system of evolution: That, given the senseless and shapeless nebula, with its aimless whirl of atoms, out of which have been evolved already the order of the heavens, the structure of the earth, the chemical and mechanical forces, the ranks of vegetable and animal life, and, finally, the forms of spiritual activity, it is capable of taking on altogether this spiritual form, no atom's weight of force being lost, but all being securely transmuted into spiritual forms, into thought, emotion, volition, wisdom, love, and might, which are again reconvertible into their former shapes of physi-