



The Origin and Progress of the Mechanical Inventions of James Watt Volume 1

James Watt



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1854 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER IV. DR. ROBISONS HISTORY OF HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH MR. WATT--ACCOUNT OF HIS CHARACTER, ABILITIES, DISPOSITIONS, HABITS, AND PURSUITS--INVENTION OF THE SEPARATE CONDENSER, AND FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON THE STEAMENGINE--WILCKES AIR-PUMP, WITH VACUUM FORMED BY THE CONDENSATION OF STEAM. Such is the concise, but emphatic and comprehensive account given by Dr. Black. We proceed to give the greater portion of that of Dr. Robison, which, entering more into detail, seems more entirely to place us, as it were, in the very presence, and reveal to us the whole course of thought and inquiry, of his inventive companion and friend. It must be remembered that, according to Mr. Watts own statement, to Robison belongs the honour of having been the first who drew his attention to the subject of steam-engines--in 1759 even suggesting their application to the moving of wheel-carriages, and to other purposes. Narrative of Mr. Watts Invention of the Improved Engine. By Professor Robison. My acquaintance with Mr. Watt began in 1758. f The original is in the handwriting of Professor R., and is indorsed Versus Hornblower and Maberly, 1796. t Mr. Watt, in his Recollections of his friend Dr. J. Robison, I was then a student in the University of Glasgow, and studying the science which I now profess to teach, Natural Philosophy. The University was then building an astronomical observatory. Mr. Watt came to settle in Glasgow as a mathematical and philosophical-instrumentmaker, and was employed to repair and set up a very noble collection of instruments bequeathed to the University by Mr. Macfarlane of Jamaica, a gentleman well known to the scientific world. Mr. Watt had apartments and a workshop within the College. I had, from my...

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