

A strange) mixture of all sorts

derivations from
John Macdonald, *A Telegraphic
Dictionary, Numerically Arranged* (1817)

VOL. III

John McVey

Aguanga Press
Cambridge 2015

<http://asfaltics.tumblr.com>

<http://asfaltics.tumblr.com/tagged/john-macdonald>

directory at

<http://jmcvey.net/astrangemixtureofallsorts/index.htm>

John Macdonald and his telegraphic dictionary discussed further at

<http://jmcvey.net/cable/signal/index.htm>

THIS THIRD VOLUME of *A strange mixture of all sorts* present 15 derivations from John Macdonald his *A Naval, Military and Political Telegraphic Dictionary, Numerically Arranged* (1817). Unlike the 42 pieces in the first two volumes, which all take an array format based on the three-column design of Macdonald's vocabulary, the work contained here reads down-wise, one column.

Some of these derivations were posted together with images from other texts; those *other* components may have suggested the use of Macdonald, and even guided searches within his vocabulary for specific expressions. There may have been a sense that the image needed to be augmented by something to give it *slant* or emblematic *spin*; Macdonald was invariably useful in such cases.

A few changes were made from the original appearances at *asfaltics* —

One piece sports a new title: *what a scene of confusion* became *modifications produced by different lights* (pp 18-19).

New or different line groupings were introduced in *what plans, where plans, without plans* (pp 22-25) and *it is a* (pp 27-29).

All of these pieces were posted at *asfaltics* between September 23, 2012 and June 11, 2015.

JOHN MACDONALD (1759?-1831) was a polymath military engineer whose career with the East India Company spanned the years 1780-1806. Stationed for years in India and at Bencoolen (West Sumatra), he carried out various surveying and engineering projects, and also experimented with fuses. He devoted his retirement to devising a signal system and this telegraphic vocabulary, and to penning scientific and other articles and letters for literary and philosophical journals of the day. He wrote a treatise on the practice, theory and harmonic system of the violincello.

just a signal

first word
second word.

last word.
words fail me.

the words, the words
where do they all come from?

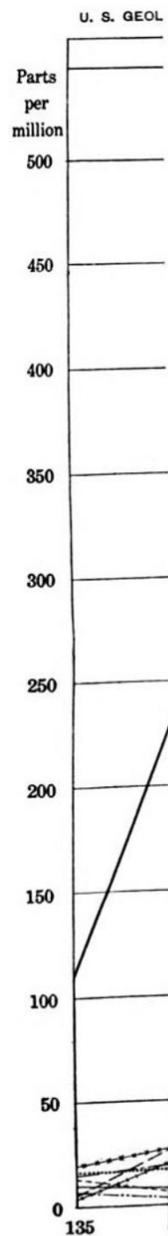
54	805	jumble — —
54	806	jumble of nonsense
54	807	jumble of words
54	810	jumbled together
54	880	justly punished —
54	881	justly served
54	884	justness of his sentence
54	935	keeping back —
54	937	keeping off

jumbles; justs; signals; words

January 10, 2013

containing, *in addition to* Macdonald phrases, the titles of two poems in Hans Magnus Enzensberger, his *A History of Clouds* (2010); and (first word, last word) parts of the kinds of phrases available in numerous telegraphic codes, under headings like “repetition” and “telegrams.”

just a jumble.



DIAGRAM

relative composition of waters

55 344	Lake
55 345	Lakes
55 346	Lake of great extent and depth

deserts; hands; here; lakes; manicules; there; water
August 31, 2014

VIII. Diagram illustrating relative composition of waters in areas of complex, trap, and greenstone
Frederick G. Clapp. "Underground Waters of Southern Maine," with records of deep wells by W. S. Bayley. USGS *Water-Supply Paper* 223. 1909
University of Michigan copy, digitized April 28, 2009

Was looking for lakes in the desert lands surveyed elsewhere in this volume.

to mend the matters

59	629	Medium
59	630	We see it through a different) medium
59	634	Medley of
59	635	A) medley of all sorts
59	697	Membranes
59	714	Memories
59	766	Mends
59	770	By way of) mending the matter,
59	688	He melted into tears
59	719	No) men can be spared

G. Handel; melancholy; mendings; such mixture was not held a stain; Mark Morris; telegraphic vocabulary
March 28, 2015

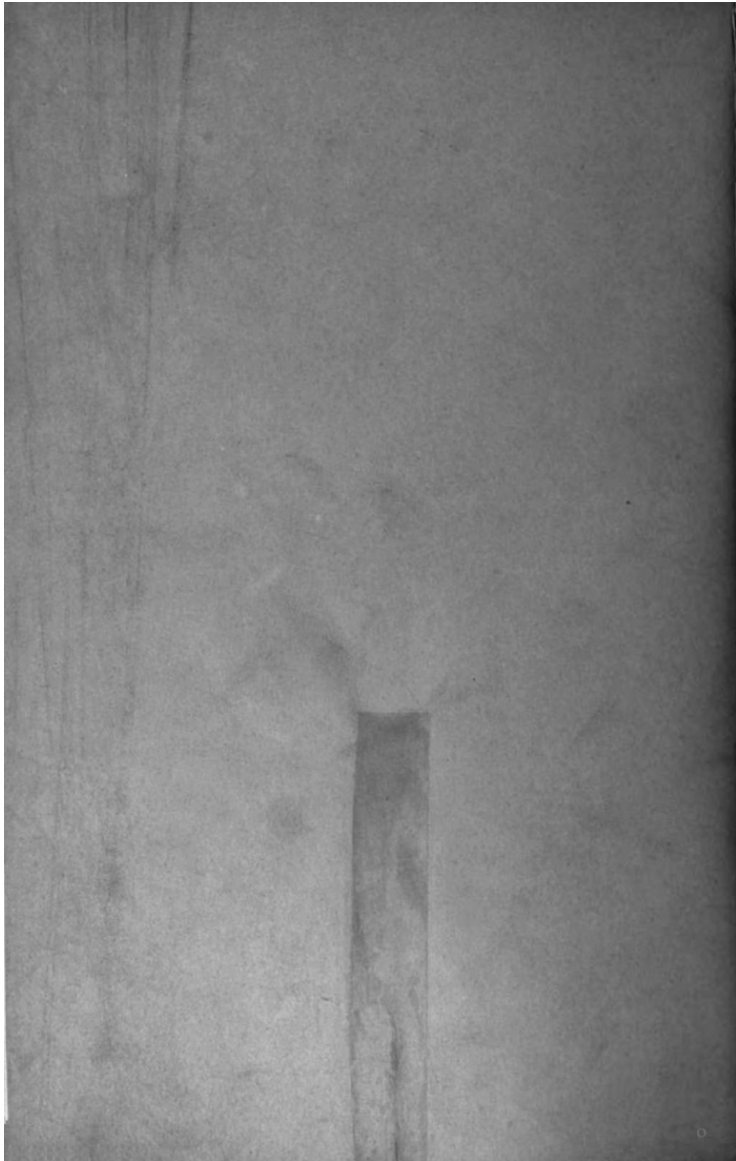
upon catching most of a PBS program on — and showing the complete — Mark Morris staging of the Handel oratorio *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*. Columns, rows, permutations of dancers together brought Macdonald's *Telegraphic Dictionary* to mind, and led to a search for "melancholy," and the single page from which the above is derived.

syllables I had never heard

95	791	swim, swom, or swum
95	792	swam over
—	—	—
95	842	to syllable
95	843	syllable
95	844	he does not know a) syllable of the matter
95	850	syllogistical
—	—	—
95	856	symbolical
—	—	—
95	896	it is a bad system
95	897	it is a good system
—	—	—
96	1	systematical

almost a song; Willa Cather; syllables; systematicals
January 3, 2014

Her words seemed to be too precise, rather cutting in their unfailing distinctness... Nancy put into many words syllables I had never heard sounded in them before.
ex Willa Cather, *Sapphira and the Slave Girl* (1940)



weatherwise weave

- xxv 33 Wear and tear
—
xxv 68 A weather-beaten appearance
xxv 69 A weather-beaten look
—
xxv 91 Weatherwise
xxv 93 Weave

grays; something or other; wear and tear
December 11, 2014

accidental frontispiece, repaired
Brooklyn Engineers Club. *Proceedings* for 1910. January
1911.
University of Chicago copy, digitized February 27, 2012

adrift, very

- XVII 255 very like
XVII 269 very logical, alias, very nonsensical
XVII 319 very muddy roads
XVII 324 it is a) very mysterious business.

adrifts; mud; muddy; nonsense; very
October 11, 2013

muds

- 7 6 Choked up with mud
7 7 Choked up with sand
26 666 He had not done much
62 839 Mud
62 840 Muddiness
62 841 Muddled
62 845 Muddy roads
62 846 Muddy weather
68 466 On signals made
68 467 On sober reflection
68 468 On soft mud
92 619 She) stuck fast in the mud
H3 61/674 moz
H3 62/675 muc
H3 63/676 mud

mud; muds; muddy
March 23, 2013

The last three phrases from the special Classes H2 through H4 for spelling, “when unavoidable.”



well where

XXV 553 well watched
XXV 554 well watered

XXV 559 well when
XXV 561 well where

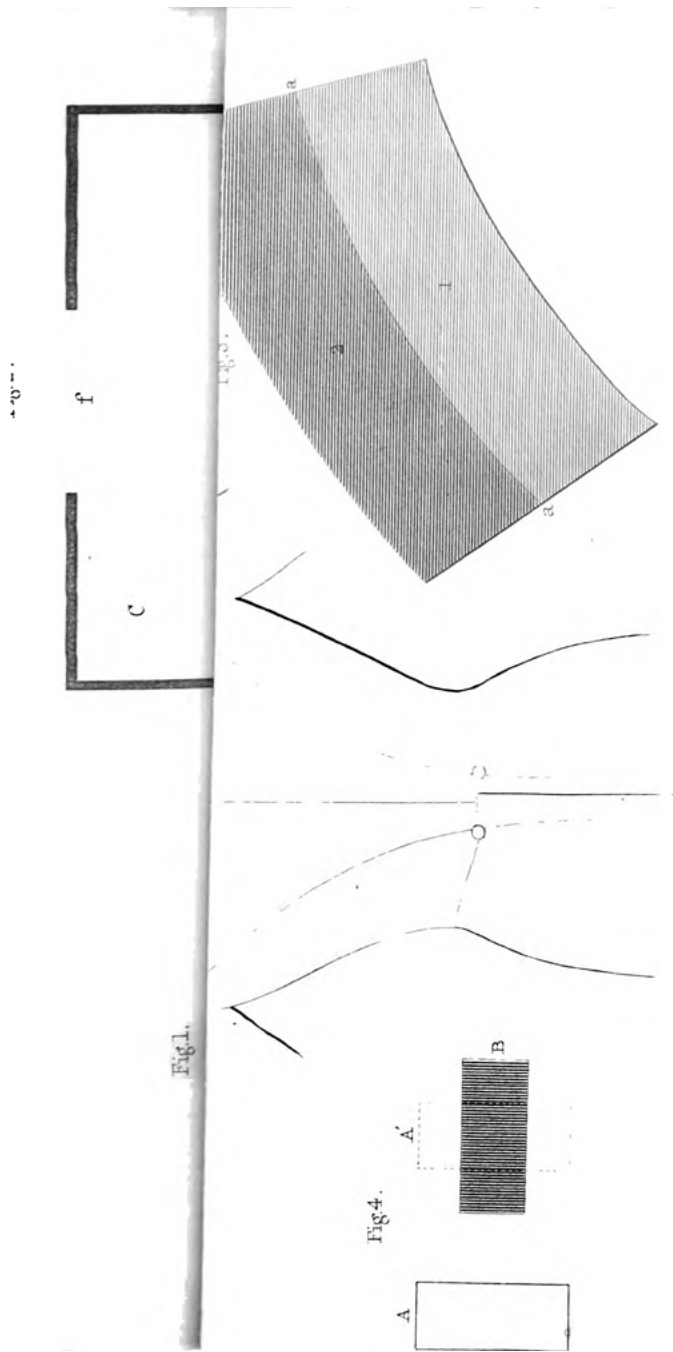
XXV 562 well while
XXV 575 well wrote

XXV 585 well-nigh

XXV 587 well-nigh lost
XXV 642 went wrong

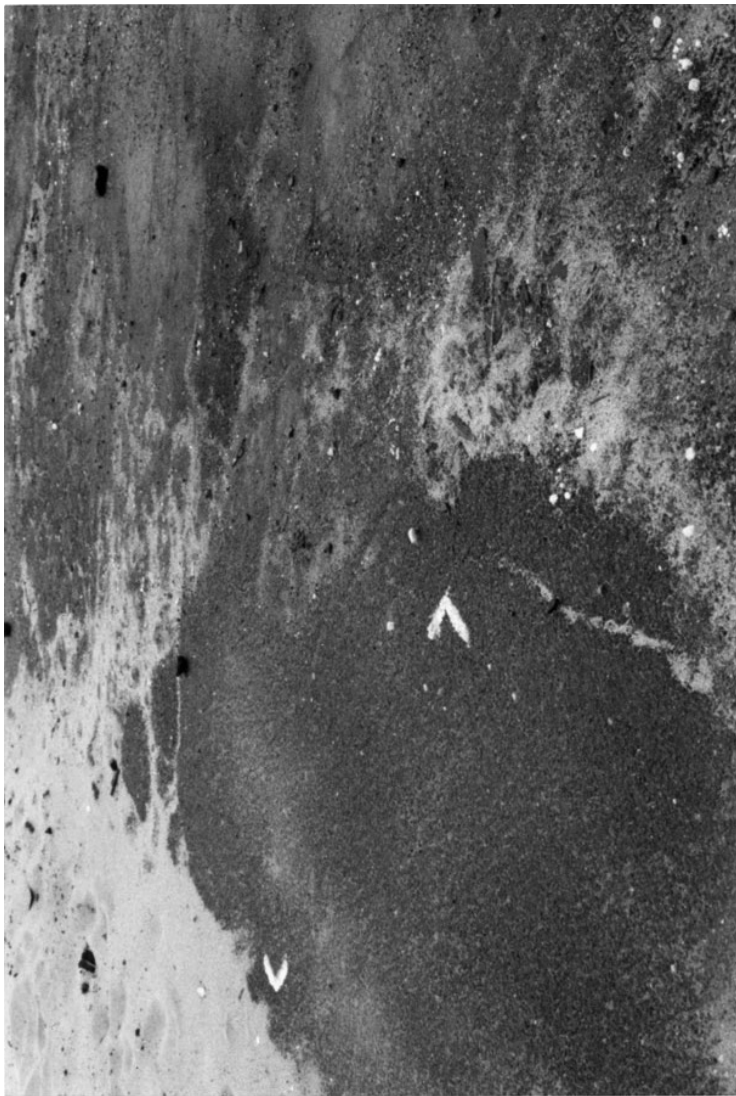
asphalt; water; well watered
October 11, 2013

joked with gas company workers, about their discovering a
natural spring, hitherto hidden.
rotated 90°ccw.



M. E. Chevreul; color; scenes of confusion
November 22, 2012

Illustration 3. Modifications Produced by Different Lights.
(partially visible engraving)
Michel Eugène Chevreul (1786-1889). *The Principles of
Harmony and Contrast of Colours, and Their Applications
to the Arts...* Third Edition, translated by Charles Martel.
London, 1860
Bodleian copy, digitized Nov 26, 2007



tar sands

xxxv 958 With directions
xxxvi 964 Without directions
91 844 Spread in all directions

adrifts; asphalt; notations; sand; temps perdu
May 16, 2013

somewhere, somewhen.
rotated 90° ccw.

what plans, where plans, without plans

1	616	An) admirable plan
11	90	Develop the plan —
11	175	Diabolical plan —
11	608	Disapprove of the plan
11	735	Disconcert their plan —
11	738	Disconcerted their plan
15	623	Explain your plan clearly
16	6	Facilitate your plan
16	511	Favourite plan
18	925	Future plan —
20	753	Great plan
20	754	Great plans
22	992	Had your plan
23	334	Happy plan
29	316	He may have altered the plan
36	467	He ought to plan
37	271	He shall not agree to so ridiculous a plan
39	772	He must have planned
40	948	— was enough to render abortive the whole plan
41	724	— was not planned
41	973	— was planned
41	974	— was planned by
48	602	If that plan
50	992	If you planned
52	467	Indigested plan
53	119	Insidious plan
53	996	Investiture of the plan
58	664	Many plans
64	460	There is) no plan
64	461	There was) no plan
65	493	Not approved of the plan
66	85	We like) not plans that are absurd —
66	877	Nothing planned
69	244	Or plan

71	33	Our plan
71	34	Our plan was
71	35	Our plans were —
71	36	Our plans were frustrated by
74	323	To plan
74	324	Plan
74	325	Come and learn the) plan
74	326	The) plan is objectionable
74	327	The) plan is unexceptional
74	328	The) plan was well executed
74	329	Plans
74	330	Plans are all ready —
74	331	Planned
74	332	Planned admirably
74	333	Planned by
74	334	Planning
76	343	Principal plan
76	458	Private plan
76	669	A) prodigious plan
76	670	A) prodigious price —
77	13	A) proper plan
79	374	The) readiest plan
82	446	Rough plan
82	598	He has completely) ruined the plan
83	297	The) same plan
84	300	Secret plan —
85	571	Several plans
86	610	Short plan
87	343	A) similar plan
87	680	Singular plan —
90	262	Some plans
91	602	A) speedy plan
92	673	Still a bad plan
94	100	Such a plan —
95	174	Superior plan
95	384	The) surest plan
96	415	He) took plans of —

96 539 Taken a rough plan
 96 615 Taken plans of —
 97 546 That a wrong plan
 98 240 That plan —
 98 241 That plan will not answer
 99 74 Their plan
 99 75 Their plan is
 99 76 Their plan was
 XI 891 Thwarted in his plan

 XVI 240 Various plans
 XVI 342 Vary the plan
 XVI 346 He) varied the plan

 XX 89 Unless plans are
 XXI 51 It is the) unthriftiest plan possible
 XXI 670 Send) up plans of —

 XXI 784 Upon a bad plan
 XXI 793 Upon a plan

 XXII 109 Us plans
 XXIV 159 We planned
 XXV 440 Well planned —
 XXV 441 A) well planned expedition
 XXVII 357 What plan
 XXVII 358 What plans
 XXVII 359 What plan is proposed

 XXVII 856 Whatever plan
 XXVII 857 Whatever plans
 XXVII 858 No plan) whatever
 XXVII 859 No plans) whatever

 XXIII 314 We abandoned the plan

 XXIX 332 Where plans
 XXX 932 Which plan
 XXX 933 Which plans
 XXXII 74 Who planned
 XXXII 75 Who planned the —
 XXXIII 219 Whose plan
 XXXIII 220 Whose plan is it —
 XXXIII 221 Whose plan was it
 XXXVI 261 With many plans

XXXVI 378 With my plan
 XXXVI 524 With plans of

 XXXVII 192 Without plans
 XXXVIII 105 The) worst plan —
 XXXVIII 106 It is the) worst possible plan

 XL 61 Yours may be the best plan
 XL 64 Yours will be the plan
 XLII 39 I think the plan will not answer
 XLII 40 I think the plan will do
 XLII 205 You must come on board to arrange a plan — —
 XLII 321 The plan won't do.
 XLII 328 A worse plan there cannot well be.
 XLIX 580 Reduce the place, cost what it may, as the plan of the campaign demands it.

plans
 December 7, 2012

nothing planned, or plan

66	877	Nothing planned
69	244	Or plan
69	245	Or port —
69	310	Or trouble —
69	319	Or unless
16	140	Fallen in with the land —
99	136	Their ruin must follow

ors; plans; ruination
December 2, 2012

it is a

7	616	comfort to
17	651	folly
54	467	bad business.
54	468	<i>bad example to follow,</i>
54	469	certain fact
54	470	current report —
54	471	dreadful business
54	472	great misfortune
54	473	great pity
54	474	great pity that
54	475	great pity that any consideration —
54	476	great pity that any consideration should have induced
54	477	sad misfortune
54	478	sad pity
54	479	very
54	480	very great loss
57	27	little hard on us,
57	531	<i>long road, and is bad ;</i>
59	23	<i>very) marshy country :</i>
59	264	maxim with me
60	392	miracle that
60	652	complete) misrepresentation
60	958	momentous object
61	679	most convenient opportunity
63	343	nasty business
63	673	necessary part of my duty
64	583	noble act
71	838	paradox to us
74	241	great) pity that
74	242	pity that he should
74	243	pity to allow
74	245	thousand) pities that
74	834	poor account of the business
75	533	most) praiseworthy act.
76	130	pretty business to be sure !
76	433	private concern

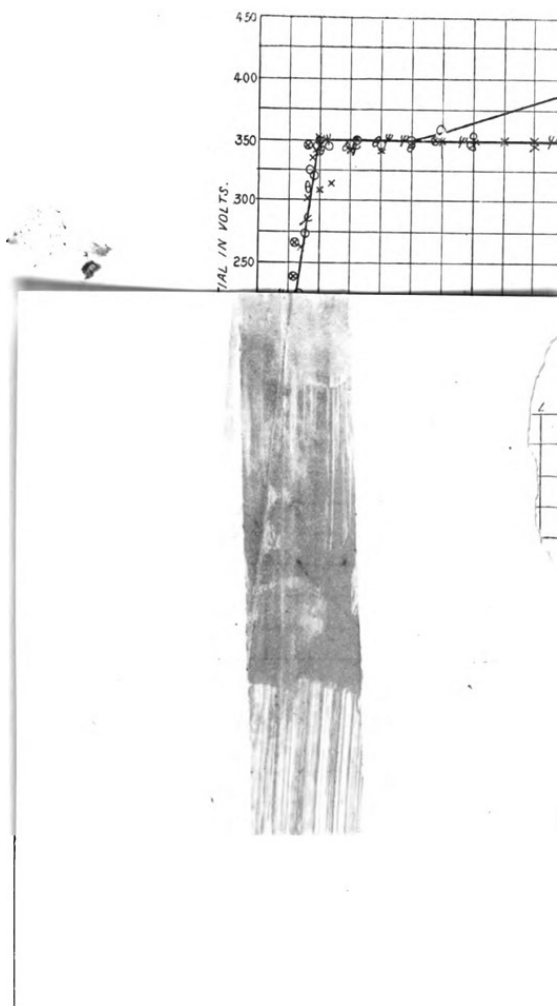
76 586 procedure that
77 66 very) proper work to do
78 152 *queer business, and not easily understood*
79 76 most) rascally act
79 400 real gratification to me —
79 407 real instance of
81 125 reproach to him —
81 933 most) ridiculous affair
82 605 most) ruinous business —
86 108 shame to him
86 109 shame to them
86 110 shame to you
86 118 most) shameful thing
87 385 very) simple case
87 393 simple question
87 664 very) singular case
93 357 striking resemblance
93 860 most complete) subterfuge
94 922 sufficient trial
95 896 bad) system
85 897 good) system
96 798 very) tardy affair
I 472 great) acquisition
XII 916 ticklish business
XIII 700 most) tireseome business
XIII 773 tissue of falsehoods
XIV 515 most extraordinary) transaction
XIV 855 mere) trifle —
XVI 7 valiant act
XVI 413 vast mistake
XVI 420 vast object
XVI 424 vast offer
XVI 430 vast piece of work
XVI 432 vast pity
XVI 433 vast pity to see
XVI 437 vast pleasure to me
XVI 442 vast price to give
XVI 476 vast shame to
XVI 504 vast work
XVI 861 very bad business

XVI 868 very bad time
XVI 888 very black business
XVI 953 very common thing
XVI 951 very curious thing
XVII 8 very delicate business
XVII 132 very great thing
XVII 380 very piteous case
XVI 518 very simple thing
XVI 785 most vexing thing
XVII 900 fine) view —
XVIII 264 great) way off
XXV 194 weighty business
XXVIII 8 place of no strength) whatever
XXXI 908 *who, I! It is a mistake.*
XXXIV 824 perfect) wilderness
XXXV 577 bad) wind
XXXVIII 895 very) wrong thing

it is a's
November 21, 2012

All (?) of the phrases commencing with "It is a," shown (with one exception XXXI / 908) minus those three words and in order of their appearance in Macdonald.

Combining different results of same search, from same volume, a year apart. I do not recall what prompted the emphasis given some lines (*italicized* here, bold at *asfalties*).



potential difference

- 56 990 little desire
- 56 992 little did
- 56 993 little did he know
- 56 994 little difference
- 56 995 little does —

elbows; potential difference; tables
November 30, 2012

Plate XIII. Comparison of Curve for Atmospheric Pressure with Earhart's Curve.—The results with brass electrodes at various pressures are given in Table I., and represented graphically in Fig. 4 (Pl. XIII).

(obscured)

Glen Moody Hobbs, "The Relation between P.D. and Spark-length for Small Values of the Latter." *The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science*, vol. x.— Sixth Series (July-December 1905): 617-63

University of California copy, digitized April 19, 2007

