

III

The Pieces: Atoms

... we find that two molecules [or atoms] of the same kind, say of hydrogen, have the same properties, though one has been compounded with carbon and buried in the earth as coal for untold ages, while the other has been 'occluded' in the iron of a meteorite, and after unknown wanderings in the heavens has at last fallen into the hands of some terrestrial chemist.

–James Clerk Maxwell, Scottish Physicist (1831–1879)