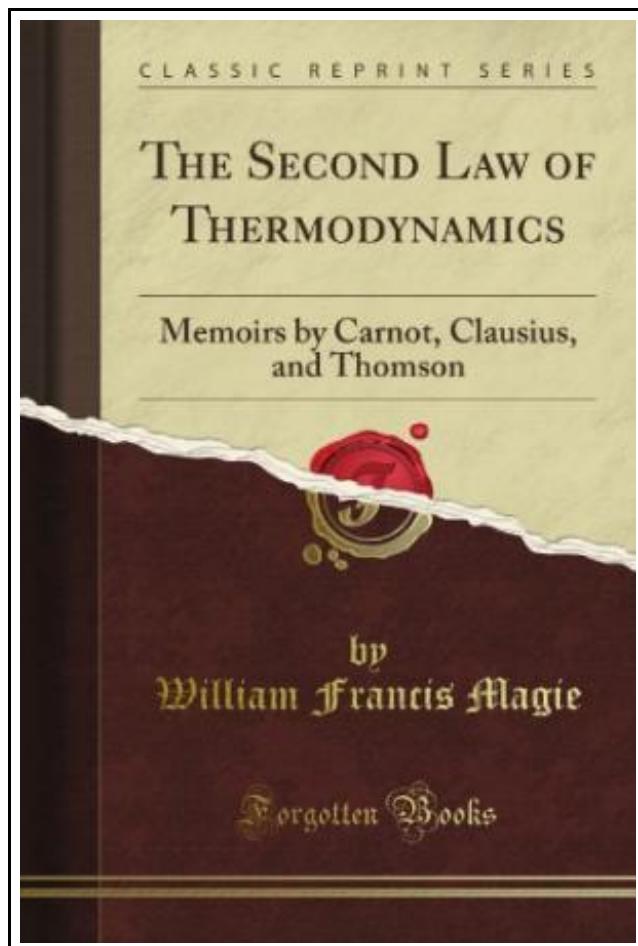


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Second Law of Thermodynamics: Memoirs by Carnot, Clausius, and Thomson After the invention of the steam-engine in its present form by James Watt, the attention of engineers and of scientific men was directed to the problem of its further improvement. With this end in view, the young Sadi Carnot, in 1824, published the *Reflexions sur la Puissance Motrice du Feu*, of which the translation is given in this volume. In this really great memoir, Carnot examined the relations between heat and the work done by heat used in an ideal engine, and by reducing the problem to its simplest form and avoiding all special questions relating to details, he succeeded in establishing the conditions upon which the economical working of all heat-engines depends. It is not necessary here to animadvert upon the use made by Carnot of the substantial theory of heat, and the consequent failure of the proof of his main proposition when the true nature of heat was appreciated. It is sufficient to say that though the proof was invalid, the proposition remained true, and carried with it the truth of such of Carnot's deductions as were based solely upon it. Carnot's memoir remained for a long time unappreciated, and it was not until use was made of it by William Thomson (now Lord Kelvin), in 1848, to establish an absolute scale of temperature, that the merits of the method proposed in it were recognized. In his first paper on this subject Thomson retained the substantial theory of heat, but the evidence in favor of the mechanical theory became so strong that he soon after adopted the new view. Applying...



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