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The Vis Viva Controversy: a Tercentenary Celebration. Preliminary report.

What is the nature of force? What is the proper measure of force and is force conserved? These questions found traction in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The controversy begins in 1686 with Leibniz proposing *vis viva* as an alternative measure of force to the Cartesian law of the quantity of motion. In this talk we will follow the dispute through the work of Wallis, Huygens, Boscovich, and ending with d'Alembert who asserted that the previous controversy was simply “*une dispute de mots.*” This talk celebrates two tercentenaries, the death of Leibniz in 1716 and the birth of d'Alembert in 1717 (Received September 16, 2015)