higher or brighter. The great discoveries of Copernicus, Galileo, Newton, had fixed all eyes on those portions of human knowledge on which their successors employed their labors. The certainty belonging to this line of speculation seemed to elevate mathematicians above the students of other subjects; and the beauty of mathematical relations, and the subtlety of intellect which may be shown in dealing with them, were fitted to win unbounded applause. The successors of Newton and the Bernoullis, as Euler, Clairaut, D'Alembert, Lagrange, Laplace, not to introduce living names, have been some of the most remarkable men of talent which the world has seen. That their talent is, for the most part, of a different kind from that by which the laws of nature were discovered, I shall have occasion to explain elsewhere; for the present, I must endeavor to arrange the principal achievements of those whom I have mentioned.

The series of persons is connected by social relations. Euler was the pupil of the first generation of Bernoullis, and the intimate friend of the second generation; and all these extraordinary men, as well as Hermann, were of the city of Basil, in that age a spot fertile of great mathematicians to an unparalleled degree. In 1740, Clairaut and Maupertuis visited John Bernoulli, at that time the Nestor of mathematicians, who died, full of age and honors, in 1748. Euler, several of the Bernoullis, Maupertuis, Lagrange, among other mathematicians of smaller note, were called into the north by Catharine of Russia and Frederic of Prussia, to inspire and instruct academics which the brilliant fame then attached to science, had induced those monarchs to establish. The prizes proposed by these societies, and by the French Academy of Sciences, gave occasion to many of the most valuable mathematical works of the century:

7. *The Problem of Three Bodies.*—In 1747, Clairaut and D'Alembert sent, on the same day, to this body, their solutions of the celebrated "Problem of Three Bodies," which, from that time, became the great object of attention of mathematicians;—the bow in which each tried his strength, and endeavored to shoot further than his predecessors.

This problem was, in fact, the astronomical question of the effect produced by the attraction of the sun, in disturbing the motions of the moon about the earth; or by the attraction of one planet, disturbing the motion of another planet about the sun; but being expressed generally, as referring to one body which disturbs any two others, it became a mechanical problem, and the history of it belongs to the present subject.