

light upon a happier mode of reconciling the claims of Science with the prejudices of the Church?—As late as 1829, when Warsaw raised a monument to Copernicus, no priest had the courage to celebrate the religious rites announced for the occasion ;—Copernicus had died without confessing his sin !



FIG. 14.—TYCHO BRAHÉ.

TYCHO BRAHÉ,* could not refuse his admiration to the simplicity of the Copernican cosmogony ; but was unable to comprehend the initial movement impressed on so considerable a mass as the Earth. Nay more, the text of Holy Writ was wholly opposed to such a doctrine. Did not Joshua bid the sun stand still over Gibeon ? To promote a fitting concord between religion (or rather theology) and the new cosmography, Tycho Brahé devised a middle term—a *Via Media*—a

kind of *eclectic* system. He permitted the planets to revolve around the Sun, according to the views of Copernicus ; but he fixed the Earth fast and firm, and made the Sun circle round this immovable terrestrial sphere. Thus he granted to our minor planet that immovability which he refused to the Sun. In such wise did the greatest intellects of the seventeenth century, enthralled by their melancholy concession to a theological scruple which had no real foundation, hesitate between the clear and indisputable evidences of religious truth and an error resting only on the mistaken interpretation of a few lines in the Bible.

By discovering the true laws or rules of the movements of the

* [Tycho Brahé was born on the 14th December 1546, at Knudsthorp, near Helsingborg. He studied at Copenhagen and Leipzig. He built his observatory of Uraniberg, or "The City of the Heavens," on the island of Huen, in 1576 ; and died at Prague, 24th October 1601.—SIR DAVID BREWSTER, *Martyrs of Science*, pp. 128-200.]