

full occupation in verifying his discoveries, and in extending and improving the mathematical methods which it had now become manifest were to prove the keys to an inexhaustible treasure of knowledge. The simultaneous but independent discovery of a method of mathematical investigation in every respect similar to that of Newton, by Leibnitz, while it created a degree of national jealousy which can now only be pitied, had the effect of stimulating the continental geometers to its cultivation, and impressing on it a character more entirely independent of the ancient geometry, to which Newton was peculiarly attached. It was fortunate for science that it did so : for it was speedily found that (with one fine exception on the part of our countryman Maclaurin, followed up, after a long interval, by the late Professor Robinson of Edinburgh, with equal elegance,) the geometry of Newton was like the bow of Ulysses, which none but its master could bend ; and that, to render his methods available beyond the points to which he himself carried them, it was necessary to strip them of every vestige of that antique dress in which he had delighted to clothe them. This, however, the countrymen of Newton were very unwilling to do ; and they paid the penalty in finding themselves condemned to the situation of lookers on, while their continental neighbors, both in Germany and France, were pushing forward in the career of mathematico-physical discovery with emulous rapidity.

(304.) The legacy of research which Newton may be said to have left to his successors was truly immense. To pursue, through all its intricacies, the consequences of the law of gravitation ; to account for all the inequalities of the planetary movements, and the infinitely more complicated, and to us more important ones, of the moon ; and to give, what Newton himself certainly never entertained a conception of, a demonstration of the stability and permanence of the system, under all the accumulating influence of its internal perturbations ;—this labor, and this triumph, were reserved for the succeeding age, and have been shared in succession by Clairaut, D'Alembert, Euler, Lagrange and Laplace. Yet so extensive