

is hardly imaginable that his persecutors could believe in his sincerity ; even had he not declared, the moment after, awarded them, compared to the opprobrium of this one case of exaggerated oppression!" (Rhind, on the Age of the Earth ; p. 117.)

So much error prevails with regard to this great man and his persecutions, some overstating and others diminishing them, that a few lines of information may not be useless. I derive it from the *Allgemeine Deutsche Real-Encyclopädie*, 16 volumes, Leipzig, 1830—1834 : and its authorities are the works of Galileo himself, and *Lives* by Jagemann and Nelli. We usually call him by his baptismal name, though the family name would be more exactly proper. He was the son of Vincenzo Galilei, a Florentine nobleman, and born at Pisa. His talents and industry corresponded to the signal advantages of his education, in mathematics, the sciences, and elegant literature. About 1620 he became involved in a dispute with the Jesuits, which materially affected his subsequent circumstances. Having obtained the legal permission at both Rome and Florence, he published, 1632, his great work, "A Dialogue by Galileo Galilei, in which, through conversations of four Days, are discussed the two principal Systems, the Ptolemaic and the Copernican." Notwithstanding the extreme moderation of the work, scarcely amounting to an avowal of the Copernican doctrine, it was made the ground of severe proceedings. Pope Urban VIII. had, in private life, been his friend ; but he was now drawn over by the monks to become a zealous enemy. A congregation of cardinals and others, all his sworn enemies, condemned his book, and cited him to the tribunal of the Inquisition. He was obliged to come to Rome, was imprisoned some months, and on the 23d of June, 1633, kneeling and placing his hand upon the gospels, to denote a declaration by oath in the presence of the God of truth, he uttered the dictated words, "With a sincere heart and undissembled fidelity, I abjure, curse, and detest the aforesaid errors and heresies." Immediately as he rose from this impious mockery, he betrayed the strongest emotion, stamped on the ground, and said, *E pur si muove!* (It moves, however.) He was condemned to perpetual imprisonment in the dungeons of the Inquisition, and to repeat weekly for three years the seven Penitential Psalms. With regard to the place of imprisonment, great favour was shown him. Instead of a dungeon, he was confined in the Bishop's palace at Sienna, and afterwards in a similar retreat near Florence. In this condition he prosecuted his investigations on the laws of motion, the planetary phenomena, and other parts of mechanical philosophy : till deafness, blindness, sleeplessness, and excruciating pain wore out the venerable philosopher. He died, aged 78, Jan. 8, 1642, the year of the birth of NEWTON.—Alas! How low does this great man sink, by the side of many a poor, tender, and delicate woman, who has refused to purchase a release from the most cruel torture of the rack or the flames, by yielding to utter any falsehood or deny any truth!