

the College, erected a statue of Newton in the College Chapel (a noble work of Roubiliac), with the inscription, *Qui genus humanum ingenio superavit.*]

At Oxford, David Gregory and Halley, both zealous and distinguished disciples of Newton, obtained the Savilian professorships of astronomy and geometry in 1691 and 1703.

David Gregory's *Astronomiæ Physicæ et Geometricæ Elementa* issued from the Oxford Press in 1702. The author, in the first sentence of the Preface, states his object to be to explain the mechanics of the universe (*Physica Cœlestis*), which Isaac Newton, the Prince of Geometers, has carried to a point of elevation which all look up to with admiration. And this design is executed by a full exposition of the Newtonian doctrines and their results. Keill, a pupil of Gregory, followed his tutor to Oxford, and taught the Newtonian philosophy there in 1700, being then Deputy Sedleian Professor. He illustrated his lectures by experiments, and published an Introduction to the *Principia* which is not out of use even yet.

In Scotland, the Newtonian philosophy was accepted with great alacrity, as appears by the instances of David Gregory and Keill. David Gregory was professor at Edinburgh before he removed to Oxford, and was succeeded there by his brother James. The latter had, as early as 1690, printed a thesis, containing in twenty-two propositions, a compend of Newton's *Principia*.⁴ Probably these were intended as theses for academical disputations; as Laughton at Cambridge introduced the Newtonian philosophy into these exercises. The formula at Cambridge, in use till very recently in these disputations, was "*Rectè statuit Newtonus de Motu Lunæ;*" or the like.

The general diffusion of these opinions in England took place, not only by means of books, but through the labors of various experimental lecturers, like Desaguliers, who removed from Oxford to London in 1713; when he informs us,⁵ that "he found the Newtonian philosophy generally received among persons of all ranks and professions, and even among the ladies by the help of experiments."

⁴ See Hutton's *Math. Dict.*, art. *James Gregory*. If it fell in with my plan to notice derivative works, I might speak of Maclaurin's admirable *Account of Sir Isaac Newton's Discoveries*, published in 1748. This is still one of the best books on the subject. The late Professor Rigaud's *Historical Essay on the First Publication of Sir Isaac Newton's "Principia"* (Oxf. 1838) contains a careful and candid view of the circumstances of that event.

⁵ Desag. *Pref.*