

was supplied to Gregory by Newton himself. The late Professor Rigaud, in his *Historical Essay on the First Publication of Sir Isaac Newton's Principia*, says (pp. 80 and 101) that having been allowed to examine Gregory's papers, he found that the quotations given by him in his Preface are copied or abridged from notes which Newton had supplied to him in his own handwriting. Some of the most noticeable of the quotations are those taken from Plutarch's Dialogue *on the Face which appears in the Moon's Disk*: it is there said, for example, by one of the speakers, that the Moon is perhaps prevented from falling to the earth by the rapidity of her revolution round it; as a stone whirled in a sling keeps it stretched. Lucretius also is quoted, as teaching that all bodies would descend with an equal celerity in a vacuum:

Omnia quapropter debent per inane quietum  
Æque ponderibus non æquis concita ferri.

Lib. ii. v. 233.

It is asserted in Gregory's Preface that Pythagoras was not unacquainted with the important law of gravity, the inverse squares of the distances from the centre. For, it is argued, the seven strings of Apollo's lyre mean the seven planets; and the proportions of the notes of strings are reciprocally as the inverse squares of the weights which stretch them.

I have attempted, throughout this work, to trace the progress of the discovery of the great truths which constitute real science, in a more precise manner than that which these interpretations of ancient authors exemplify.

#### *Jeremiah Horrox.*

In describing the Prelude to the Epoch of Newton, I have spoken (p. 395) of a group of philosophers in England who began, in the first half of the seventeenth century, to knock at the door where Truth was to be found, although it was left for Newton to force it open; and I have there noticed the influence of the civil wars on the progress of philosophical studies. To the persons thus tending towards the true physical theory of the solar system, I ought to have added Jeremy Horrox, whom I have mentioned in a former part (Book v. chap. 5) as one of the earliest admirers of Kepler's discoveries. He died at the early age of twenty-two, having been the first person who ever saw Venus pass across the disk of the Sun according to astronomical prediction, which took place in 1639. His *Venus in sole visa*,