

science was cultivated at the different Scotch universities, which supplied Oxford with a Professor of Astronomy (preferred to Halley), in the person of David Gregory. "David Gregory not only introduced the 'Principia' to Edinburgh students, but he also brought them to the notice of Englishmen."¹ The Philosophical (afterwards called the Royal) Society of Edinburgh was much indebted to Colin Maclaurin,² who almost alone with Landen and Ivory maintained the reputation of British mathematicians during seventy years, whilst the Continental school was revolutionising that science. A successor to Maclaurin in the mathematical chair at Edinburgh, John Playfair,³ introduced the Continental methods into the studies of the Scotch universities about the end of the last century. He was one of the early contributors to the 'Edinburgh Review,' which in politics, literature, and science inaugurated a new kind of criticism, and led a powerful attack upon all those traditional forms of government, taste, and learning which prevented the free expansion of ideas and the progress of science and practical interests. Though not always judiciously used, the

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which the following two hundred and eighty years have added nothing" (Glaisher in 'Ency. Brit.,' 9th ed., article "Napier").

¹ David Gregory (1661-1708) has "the honour of having been the first to give public lectures on the Newtonian philosophy. This he did in Edinburgh five-and-thirty years before these doctrines were accepted as part of the public instruction in the university of their inventor" (Sir A. Grant and Chrystal, *loc. cit.*, vol. ii. p. 296). Cambridge writers, headed by Whewell, are loath to admit any reluctance on

the part of their university in accepting the Newtonian philosophy, in spite of Whiston's testimony to the contrary. See on this Whewell's 'History of the Inductive Sciences,' 3rd ed., vol. ii. p. 149, &c.

² Colin Maclaurin (1698-1746) published, 1742, a 'Treatise on Fluxions,' 2 vols. 4to. In 1740 he shared with Daniel Bernoulli and Euler the prize of the French Academy for his 'Essay on the Tides.'

³ John Playfair (1748-1819) was Professor of Mathematics and then (from 1805) of Natural Philosophy.