

devout Christian, who, as we have seen, united in offering to God those soul-uplifting prayers and praises which members of the English Church love so well. "That he," says Sir David Brewster, "who among all the individuals of his species possessed the highest intellectual powers, *was not only a learned and profound divine, but a firm believer in the great doctrines of religion, is one of the proudest triumphs of the Christian religion.* He had been of a devout mind from his youth, and though he never intended to take Holy Orders, yet he interchanged the study of the Scriptures with that of the laws of the material universe, and from the examination of the works of the Supreme Creator, he found it no abrupt transition to investigate the revelation of His Will, and to contemplate the immortal destinies of mankind."

Sir Isaac Newton wrote several theological works, as follows:—

- (1). "*The observations on the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John.*"
- (2). "*Lexicon Propheticum.*"
- (3). "*Four Letters addressed to Dr. Bentley, containing some arguments in proof of a Deity.*"
- (4). "*Historical account of two notable corruptions of Scripture.*"

We may observe that upon the Prophecies, he gives this very suggestive and commonly received opinion: "The Prophecies of the Old and New Testament are not given to gratify men's curiosities, by enabling them to foreknow things, but that after they are fulfilled, they might be interpreted by the event, and afford convincing arguments that the world is governed by Providence."

The following is the lucid manner in which he interprets a difficult passage of Scripture, viz.:—

"*There are three that bear record in heaven.*" "There are three that bear record of our Saviour's coming; the Spirit which He promised to send, and which was since shed forth upon us in the form of cloven tongues, and in various gifts; the baptism of water, wherein God testified 'this is my beloved Son'; and the shedding of His Blood, accompanied with His resurrection, whereby He became the most faithful martyr or witness of this truth. And these three, the Spirit, the Baptism, and Passion of Christ, agree in witnessing *one* and the same thing (namely, that the Son of God is come), and, therefore, their evidence is strong; for the law requires but two consenting witnesses, and here we have three; and if we receive the witness of men, the *threefold* witness of God, which He bare of His Son by declaring at His Baptism '*This is my beloved Son*'; by raising Him from the dead, and by pouring out His Spirit upon us, *is greater*; and, therefore, ought to be more readily received."

It is also said that his generosity and charity had no bounds, and that he used to remark, "that they who gave nothing till they died, never gave at all." Though his wealth had become considerable by a prudent economy, yet he had always a contempt for money; and he spent a considerable part of his income in relieving the poor, in assisting his relations, and in encouraging ingenuity and learning. He gave also several donations to the parish of Colsterworth, in which church he was baptized. He never permitted immorality or impiety to pass unnoticed; and when Dr. Halley ventured to say anything in his presence disrespectful to religion, he always checked him, and said, "*I have studied these things—you have not.*"

Sir Isaac died at the advanced age of eighty-four, in the year 1727. A short time before his death, he uttered this memorable sentiment, which more than anything bespeaks the humility, as well as