

spreading beech tree or was engaged in cutting models of water-wheels with his jack knife, the cattle were treading out the corn for their own use, and the sheep were everywhere where they should not have been. His friends decided that he was not fitted for agrarian pursuits, and sent him to college, being likely the only fit place for a boy who obstinately declined to perpetuate the family traditions as an honest cultivator of the soil. He was destined for higher and more celestial pursuits; the perplexing problems of the rotation of the crops were not his to solve, but rather the rotation of the planets; not the care of the bulls and the rams and the dogs of the farm, but the study of Taurus and Aries and Canis Major and Minor. His philosophic mind early showed its peculiar characteristics. When he was 16 years old, and on the day of the great storm when Cromwell died, he sought to determine the force of the gale, and so he jumped first with the wind and then against the wind, and then compared the results with his jump on a calm day, and so computed the force of the storm. Unconsciously he thus became a disciple of Francis Bacon, the great exponent of experimental philosophy.

He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1661, and graduated four years afterwards. His first effort in the line of mathematics was to buy an English edition of Euclid, which he tossed aside "as a trifling book," and applied himself to the study of Descartes' *Geometry*. I venture to offer you a sidelight on the humanity of our hero. Students do not as a rule keep expense accounts. The expense account kept by young Isaac in 1665 is a revelation—in this there was neither philosophical nor mathematical posing; it was only plain every-day nature. Among many items we find the following:

	£	s	d
Drills, hammer, etc. -	-	-	5
A magnet -	-	-	16
Glass bubbles -	-	-	4
Lost by cards twice -	-	-	15
At the tavern twice -	-	-	3 6
Three prisms -	3	0	0
To the proctor -	2	0	0
4 oz. of putty -	-	-	1 4
Binding my Bible -	-	-	3
Oranges for my sister -	-	-	4 2
Lent Dr. Wickens -	-	-	11