

when he was asked,—“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” answered by setting a little child “in the midst of them” and said,—“Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” This reflection suggests to me a beautiful story of Newton in his old age, which I would fain take as proved without demonstration. I have given up the apple story and the cat-and-dog story, but this one I fondly, if not logically, hold to. When in a company of friends, who surrounded him affectionately and even worshipfully in his declining years, some one ventured to compliment him on his outstanding pre-eminence as a man of science, and spoke of the wonderful discoveries he had made; he gently said, “Nay not so, for indeed I am only as a little child wandering along the seashore, and picking up here and there some pebble or shining shell, while the vast undiscovered but not undiscoverable ocean of Truth lies before me.”

Let us speak of Newton in other connections. While he was engaged in writing the *Principia* a very important event occurred at Cambridge, which hurried the philosopher out of his study and set him before the public eye in a new light. James II., of not very fragrant memory, in his wild effort to establish Roman Catholicism issued a Mandate directing that Father Alban Francis, a Benedictine Monk, should be admitted as a Master of Arts of the University of Cambridge without taking the oaths of allegiance and supremacy. This was fiercely resisted, and Newton was appointed by the Senate as one of eight deputies to oppose this act of royal tyranny before a High Commission Court at Westminster. The infamous Judge Jeffries (he of the Bloody Assize) presided, and he let loose his invective at the Vice-Chancellor, who ventured to argue the question, and then ordered the rest of them out of Court, and closed a fierce snarling address with the following specimen of oratory,—“Therefore I shall say to you what the Scripture says, and rather because most of you are divines, ‘Go your way and sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.’” Under his rebuke and in front of such a judge, the most infamous that ever sat on a Brit-