

source of continual vexation to Kepler. When he retired to Sagan, in Silesia, to spend the evening of his days, his difficulties became more harassing. Dire necessity, the urgent calls of a famishing family, compelled him to apply personally for the arrears, and he set out in 1630 for Ratisbon; but in consequence of the great fatigue which so long a journey on horseback produced, he was seized with typhus fever, of which he died on November 30, 1630, in the 59th year of his age. I have dreaded to inquire what became of his family after his decease. Such is the usage good and great men too frequently experience in this present evil world. Next on the stage comes an admirable youth, Jeremiah Horrox, a celebrated English Astronomer of the 17th century, the pride and boast of British Astronomy. He was born at Toxteth, near Liverpool, in 1619, and educated at Emanuel College, Cambridge; he began in 1633, in his fourteenth year, to study Astronomy, and accurately observed the Transit of Venus, November 24, 1639, but died suddenly January 3, 1640, only a few days after he had finished his celebrated treatise, "Venus in Sole visa." His other posthumous productions were collected and published by Dr. Wallis, Savilian Professor at Oxford, in 1673. Horrox was the first to observe the passage of Venus over the Sun's disc, and his theory of Lunar motions afforded assistance to Newton, who at all times spoke of him as "an admirable genius of the highest order"; now perhaps not a stone tells where he lies. In 1633 he began to study Astronomy, but the narrow circumstances of this highly gifted young man retarded for three years his scientific labours. About the year 1636, he became acquainted with Mr. Wm. Crabtree, of Manchester, whose genius led him to the study of Astronomy, with whom Mr. H. corresponded, and they communicated their discoveries to Mr. Foster, Professor of Gresham College. Mr. H. with the assistance of his friends, who kindly furnished him with books and instruments, now pursued his studies with renewed vigour, and applied with great diligence to making celestial observations. Horrox and Crabtree corresponded,—the former at Hool, near Liverpool, England, the latter at