

to use. Galileo, to whom is given all the credit of having first discovered, what only afterwards proved to be true, was absolutely only guessing the truth; he had arrived at a sound conclusion from false data, the very arguments on which he based his theory, true as that theory subsequently appeared to be, were false. What modern Philosopher does not laugh at his puerile theory of the tides on which he sought to found his theory.

In the disputes of the day we have a rich fund of comedy, and are forcibly reminded of those lines of the Ingoldsby Legends.

"The Ghent Herald fell foul of the Brussels Gazette,  
The Brussels Gazette with much sneering ironical,  
Scorned to remain in the Ghent Herald's debt,

And the Amsterdam Times quizzed the Nuremberg Chronicle."

In support of their theory the New School argued:

1st. Without motion the earth would corrupt and putrify, but the heavens (*cælum* they meant the atmosphere) is incorruptible, therefore the earth with its atmosphere must have motion.

To this sapient proof, the old School quietly answered doubtless "with much sneering ironical," the winds are sufficient for all that.

2nd. Arguing from analogy the New School said: "The most movable part of man is underneath since he walks with his feet. Therefore the most unworthy part of the universe—the Earth—ought to walk. Sapient Copernicans! This is certainly a new theory of the Earth's utility—that it is the walking part of our Solar System!"

3rd. A third argument used by the New School in support of their position ran thus: "Rest is nobler than motion; therefore the Sun, the nobler body ought to be at rest.

The answer of their opponents to this sapient argument is, *if possible*, more puerile than the argument itself. If rest, they answered, is nobler than motion, the moon and all the planets being nobler than the earth ought to be at rest.

Nothing daunted by the little progress they were making, and unabashed by the disgraceful weakness of their logic and their proofs, the New School

returned again to the charge.

4th. The Lamp of the world ought to be in the centre.

Answered. A lamp is frequently hung up from the roof to light the floor.

5th. Can we fancy asked the New School (waxing *sublime* when it could no longer be *practical*), that God has not acted on a scheme so impressive and so sublime as ours?

Can we fancy replied their opponents (remaining *practical* when they could not be *sublime*), that this earth of ours is constantly in motion which we feel to be the stablest of all things; that our senses were given to deceive us; that like gnats upon a wheel we cling to the earth, and are for the greater part of our lives with our heads downwards.

Finally the New School was utterly silenced by the *to them* unanswerable argument of throwing up a stone. Would they please explain why, if the earth moved, the stone being thrown directly upwards, should fall on the spot from which it was thrown.

The New School was silenced. Science in their day had not as yet arrived at a solution. It was reserved for a man who was born on the very day Galileo died, to furnish a reason.

With such shallow arguments as these then urged with all the solemnity of Philosophy, in support of the New System, what wonder if Pope Urban and Bacon alike rejected the theory of Galileo with scorn. In point of fact it is not quiet certain but that we, who are so much more enlightened than Urban and Bacon you know, would have done the same had it been presented to us in such beggarly clothing.

In very sooth, the advocates of the New Philosophy had very evidently the worse of the arguments. They were right it is true, but it was as the old proverb says "more by luck than skill." They were right for *our days* but wrong for *their own*.

Again, there is surely no great credit due to the man, who stumbles upon a great treasure in the dark, or who stupidly believes it is there because he in his day dreams has dreamed about it. And yet this was precisely the case with Galileo. He had no solid proof of his assertion, nor was any such proof to be found anywhere in his day. Nay more, we