

of mathematics in Cambridge University—the Lucasian—was then recently founded, and Dr. Isaac Barrow, an eminent mathematician and a very genial old man, was the first Lucasian professor. Newton rendered great assistance to Dr. Barrow in the preparation of his treatise on optics. In the preface, Dr. Barrow acknowledges Newton's help, and says that Newton corrected many errors and made several valuable additions of his own. The discoveries that Newton had already

made in pure mathematics and in optics, if he had never done anything more, would have been sufficient to rank him among the greatest scientific men that ever lived. He took his B. A. degree in 1665, and shortly afterwards he was driven from Cambridge by the great plague. He retired to Woolsthorpe, and the period of his residence in the home of his boyhood is crowded with brilliant discoveries.—*Science and Industry.*

## THE GREATNESS OF ENGLAND.

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THE interest in the development of English history and in the growth of the English character lies in the fact that England has so far best solved the problem of just government. That she has in fact done so appears to be proved by the almost universal consent of nations. This consent is shown by the practical adoption of forms of government and methods of administration, first wrought out on English soils, by all nations which for the past century have taken their place in the line of human progress.

The problem presented by Roman history, is so far the simpler, because we can trace its historical development, until the work of human progress for which Rome toiled is taken up by other hands. The English character and English history present harder problems, because English history has not yet run its course. The future is still veiled from our view.

National character is a very complex product. Racial elements, the influence of external events, the growth of internal institutions, all combine in determining the final result. The aim of statesmen in

ancient times was the establishment of order, the formation, therefore, of a strong central executive. Rome ultimately accomplished this, but in the process exhausted the forces of the State. But the lesson was not forgotten. The idea of a strong central power was the aim of all European nations during the middle ages. How to preserve that power, what is the source of it, how to limit it, on what does it ultimately depend for its continued existence and efficient working, are the questions which English history tries to answer. The final resultant of the diverse lines of struggle, political and social (the two factors are never wholly identical) is at any given epoch, the national character.

The growth and the security of the liberty of the individual, the possession by all of an equality of rights are the special contribution of the Teutonic people. The struggle of ideas here implied, the idea of power and the idea of liberty, has had a fair field and no favor in England alone of European countries. This is the distinct note of her nationality. Upon the feebly-united elements of Saxon power was im-