

Not so can we dismiss Professor de Morgan, a profound mathematician and painful investigator, but withal afflicted so with an itch of impartiality as to make him most partial *against* the side to which he might be expected to lean. Certain insinuations against Newton's fairness or truthfulness in the Leibnitzian controversy he has found it necessary to withdraw, and we think it probable that after he has written, *more suo*, half a dozen treatises on the matter, he will find that, after all, the English and foreign disputants on Newton's side are not so thoroughly and utterly disingenuous as he now believes. Touching this celebrated controversy we may observe, that Newton's claim to the original and first invention of the fluxional calculus, (or the Differential, which is the same,) is undoubted; while Leibnitz's claim to the invention at all, is, at the best, doubtful, since he may have had (indeed had many opportunities of getting) the idea from Newton, and the contrary statement rests only on his own assertion, which no one who has read his character would value a straw. The lately discovered exercises on which de Morgan lays so much stress, seem to us rather the attempts of one who is trying to make out a borrowed idea than the track of original thought. No blame, however, can attach to Professor de Morgan for his opinions on this score, but we take leave to think that his revival of Voltaire's forgotten and groundless scandal about Newton's niece and the Earl of Halifax is simply disgraceful. More serious are the charges brought against Newton by Mr. Baily, in his life of Flamstead: for a complete refutation of them we are indebted to Sir David Brewster, in the work which stands at the head of this article, and we presume nothing more will ever be heard of them. In that saddest period of English History, when only not all men were base, it is an inexpressible relief to turn to the lives of men like Locke, Wren, Halley and Newton, shining mirrors which not the breath of all the rattlesnakes in Virginia can dim.

The work above cited, by Sir David Brewster, is professedly an account of the life, writings and discoveries of Newton. In some respects Newton is happy in his Biographer, for Sir David is the "prince of experimenters," and moreover wields a caustic and vigorous pen, and has an enthusiastic love for the great master; but in other respects, we are sorry to say, his performance has deeply disappointed us. In the perfect philosopher there are three distinct characters united: first, the experimenter who has to provide the raw material; next, the natural philosopher, who classifies phenomena and deduces the laws or principles which govern them; and last, the analyst, who has to work out results from such laws, and to invent the machinery for