the phlegmatical body of ether. The whole frame of nature may be nothing but various contextures condensed by precipitation, and, after condensation, brought into various forms, at first by the immediate hand of the Creator, and ever since by the power of nature; which by virtue of the command, 'increase and multiply,' became a complete imitator of the copies set her by the protoplast." "Thus," he adds, "perhaps may all things be originated from ether." Hypotheses, however, he thought very lightly of, and this one he devised only as an illustration of his "discourses" for the benefit of "some great virtuosos." Newton was not carried away by the transcendant greatness of his discoveries. Cn the contrary, they all led him up to the idea of the greatness of God, whose attributes he endeavors to express at the very end of his immortal Principia--the grandest scientific work that the mind of man has ever produced.*

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But still it may be urged that science has made great advances since his time,—let us, therefore, get the opinion of him who occupies his place now. Professor Stokes, as described by Dr. Tyndall, is "the occupant of the chair of Newton in the University of Cambridge, one of those original workers, who, though not widely known beyond scientific circles, really constitute the core of science."† What does he say on this subject? Here are his words delivered as President of the British Association at Exeter :‡—"Let us fearlessly trace the

† Lectures on Light, p. 128--American edition.

[‡] In a short sketch of Prof. Stokes given in "Nature," July 15, 1875, Prof. Tait, (Professor of Natural Philosophy in Edinburgh), says of this

^{• &}quot;The number and generality of his discoveries—the multitude of original and profound views—will assure to the Principia a pre-eminence above all the other productions of the human intellect."—Laplace, Exposition du Systeme du Monde, liv. v., chap. v.; quoted in Grant's History of Physical Astronomy, chap. i.