## The Greatest Mathematical Philosopher

Thus loans to friends, oranges for his sister, fines to the proctor, buying apparatus for experiments, losses at cards, social drinks and keeping his Bible in good order are here unconsciously revealed to this generation after a lapse of more than 250 years. Before he graduated, the method of Fluxions, otherwise the Differential Calculus, occurred to Newton's mind, which when developed became the master key in unlocking the problems of mathematics and astronomy. In 1666, on account of the plague, Trinity College was dismissed, and Newton found refuge in the country. It was then that the incident of the apple falling from a tree in the garden first awakened in his mind the theory of gravitation. Voltaire is, I understand, responsible for the story. The question was,-- "What caused the apple to fall?" The incident I fear is legendary, although it may be remarked in passing that if on that occasion the apple hit the young philosopher on the head, it would naturally arouse a train of thought, and it night even evoke some power of rapid and energetic expression. However that may be there was a certain apple tree associated with this story, which grew decrepit with age, and was consequently cut down in the year 1820. It is a cruel thing to disturb the veracity of certain stories round which cluster so many beautiful and youthful memories. There is another story about the accidental destruction of valuable papers by his dog "Diamond" upsetting a candle, and so setting them on fire, whereupon Sir Isaac, seeing the dreadful wreck, rebuked the author with an exclamation -- "O Diamond, Diamond, thou little knowest the mischief thon hast done !" And yet on another occasion we have been gravely told that Sir Isaac had a cat and a kitten, and he desired them to have free access to his library, and so ordered a carpenter to cut two holes in the door, a large one for the cat and a smaller one for the This is intended to illustrate the philosophical habit of kitten. mental abstraction possessed by the mere theorist, who had no practical ideas of space, or that the greater would include the less. But Clio, the muse of history, sternly forbids any trifling, for magna est veritas, and I am compelled by an inborn and

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