



Alinari. photo

Arch. Dep. 62

Galileo Galilei.

From the portrait by Justermans in the Uffizi Gallery.

GALILEO

HIS LIFE AND WORK

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A HISTORY OF WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY, ETC.

WITH PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

LONDON
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET,

1903

“Sempre il novo che è grande appar menzogna
... al volgar debile ingegno ;
Ma imperturbato il regno
De' saggi dietro all'utile s'ostina.
Minaccia nè vergogna
No 'l frena, no 'l remove ;
Prove accumula a prove !
Del popolare error l' idol rovina,
E la salute ai posteri destina.”

—PARINI: “L'Innesto del Vaiuolo.”

“Anything new, which is great, appears false to the ordinary weak mind, but the rule of the wise obstinately continues its way unmoved. Neither threats nor shame checks or changes its course ; experiment follows experiment ; the idol of popular error is thrown down, and health to posterity is ensured.”

DEDICATED

TO

ANTONIO FAVARO

PROFESSOR IN THE ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF PADUA, AND DIRECTOR
OF THE NATIONAL EDITION OF GALILEO'S WORKS, UNDER THE
AUSPICES OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF ITALY

IN ADMIRATION OF THE RESULTS OF HIS 25 YEARS' ALMOST
EXCLUSIVE DEVOTION TO GALILEAN LITERATURE AND
AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE HELP
HE HAS GIVEN ME IN THE PREPARATION
OF THIS VOLUME
BY HIS OBLIGED FRIEND
THE AUTHOR

PREFACE

THE history of the life and labours of Galileo is pregnant with a peculiar interest to the general reader as well as to the man of science and the philosopher. His brilliant discoveries the man of science regards as his peculiar property; the means by which they were made and the development of his intellectual character belong to the logician and the philosopher; but the triumphs and reverses of his eventful life must be claimed for our common nature, as subjects of deep interest and serious meditation.

So wrote Sir David Brewster in the opening paragraph of his biography of Galileo ("Martyrs of Science," London, 1841). It is the object of the present volume to give a fuller presentation, under this three-fold aspect, of the life which Sir David has only outlined.

In recent years materials for such a work have been brought together which were not accessible