

did not contain the example by which the method of drawing tangents, as the *Commercium* (p. 100) says, was expounded.

The author of the new introduction and of the *Annotatio* was Newton. The opening sentence of the *Annotatio* might be made to bear the interpretation put on it by M. Lefort in his edition of the *Commercium*, namely, that the writer of it suggests that Keill was the author of the *Recensio*; it is possible to put another interpretation on it, but no interpretation is likely to make this part of the case much better for Newton. Sir David Brewster, in his *Life of Newton*, speaks thus:—"It is due to historical truth to state that Newton supplied all the materials for the *Commercium Epistolicum* and that, though Keill was its editor and the Committee of the Royal Society the authors of the Report, Newton was virtually responsible for its contents."

Mr Cantor remarks in his closing words on the controversy that it had no proper continuation and that till the present century the conviction of Leibnitz's plagiarism from Newton was all but universal. The publication of Leibnitz's papers has changed the attitude of the mathematical public; though whether that change is so complete as Mr Cantor says, is doubtful. The adherents of Newton were right in contending that Newton was first in possession of the calculus; it is equally true that it was Leibnitz who first made it accessible to mathematicians. How much Leibnitz derived from Newton can never be definitely settled; I think all the evidence shows that he was on the lines of his calculus before he came under the influence of Newton, but I do not fully agree with Mr Cantor in his estimate of the help he obtained from Newton. The controversy that embittered Leibnitz's last days was largely due to his own action, but the later developments of it bring Newton too before us in a line of conduct that his warmest admirers must condemn.

Mr Cantor's *History* on which this paper has been based can be thoroughly recommended as a temperate and able account of the dispute; the other portions of his great work, with which I have no space to deal, show in an equally high degree his great merits as a historian.

On the Foundations of Dynamics.

By Dr PEDDIE.