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THE WORLD'S
GREAT SCIENTISTS

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PREFACE

The "World's Great Scientists" presented in this volume comprise sixteen of the greatest names that the world of science has known. The history of their lives and achievements would, if written in full, be a history of the development of modern scientific knowledge.

The history of the lives and achievements of these great men as here set forth, is of course, a history for popular reading. The aim has been to interest as well as to instruct, and to both interest and instruct in accordance with those conditions of limited space and absence from all technicalities, which prior publication in a popular daily newspaper necessarily imposes.

At the same time it is believed that the reader who makes himself master of what is contained in this book will become well grounded in most of the essential elements of that wonderful story of scientific development which the lives of these men enacted.

J. E. B.

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Galileo Galilei



BIBLIOTECA

I. GALILEO GALILEI

1564-1642

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

BY JOHN EBENEZER BRYANT, M. A.

From the very beginning of his civilization man took an interest in the motions of the heavenly bodies, but for ages his knowledge of their motions was incorrect. It was all based on the assumption that the earth was a fixed central point round which the sun, the moon, the planets, and the stars, revolved in their several courses. This assumption corresponded with the notion which people got of the matter from their ordinary observation. But, what was of greater moment, it corresponded also with the supposed teachings of the scriptures. In the middle ages the church was omnipotent, and whatever it wished the people to believe it took care they did believe. Disbelief, indeed, frequently resulted in death. The doctrine that the earth was the center of the universe, and that sun, moon, and stars revolved around it, the church declared was taught in the scriptures, and therefore it was one that the people were required to believe. Unfortunately, it was also one that was

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HARVEY DEMONSTRATING THE CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD TO CHARLES I

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GALILEO
FRANKLIN
CUVIER
AUDUBON
AGASSIZ

HARVEY
HERSCHEL
HUMBOLDT
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NEWTON
DALTON
DAVY
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