

the love and the knowledge of natural philosophy in the United States. He may, perhaps, have wanted some of the qualifications of a popular teacher. He would not have aspired to finished eloquence of style; to the eloquence of gesture and of manner he was still more a stranger. But there is an eloquence of physiognomy which Mr. Rittenhouse most eminently possessed, the modesty and amenity of his manner would have effected much, whether his audience had been a class of philosophers or an assembly of ladies. Of his own discoveries and opinions and theories he would have always spoken with that sweet and modest reserve for which he was ever distinguished. He would have dwelt with the most generous and ample enthusiasm upon the great discoveries of Newton; and if at any time he could have forgotten that impartial conduct which it is the duty of the historian of a science to observe, it would have been when he might have had occasion to defend the theories of that great man against the objections of succeeding and minor philosophers.

In physics, Newton was his favorite author. Of him he ever spoke with a species of respect bordering upon veneration. He considered him as one of those few great leaders in science whose discoveries and services can never be forgotten; whose fame, instead of diminishing, is destined to be augmented with the progress of time. I had many opportunities of being witness to the exalted opinion which he entertained of the immortal British philosopher. He read Dr. Bancroft's objections to some parts of Sir Isaac's theory of colors with a firm conviction that the Newtonian principles were still unshaken; and I well remember that he once referred me to a paper which he had published in one of our magazines in answer to some objections which the late Dr. Witherspoon had urged against some of the theories of Newton.

It has been observed by a celebrated writer that mathematicians in general, read, but little of each other's works. This