

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08458-1 - A History of the Mathematical Theories of Attraction and the  
Figure of the Earth: From the Time of Newton to that of Laplace: Volume 2

Isaac Todhunter

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VOLUME 2

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Si Poisson a été d'une fécondité extraordinaire, c'est qu'il était au courant de ce qui avait été fait avant lui, au courant, par exemple, des immenses travaux des Euler et des d'Alembert; c'est qu'il ne s'est jamais sottement obstiné à perdre son temps et ses forces à la recherche de ce qui était déjà trouvé.

Que l'exemple de Poisson serve de leçon à ces esprits irréfléchis qui, sous le prétexte de conserver leur originalité, dédaignent de prendre connaissance des découvertes de leurs devanciers, et restent sur les premiers degrés de l'échelle, tandis que, avec moins d'orgueil, ils se seraient élevés au sommet.

ARAGO, *Œuvres Complètes*, Tome II. page 656.

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BY  
I. TODHUNTER, M.A., F.R.S.

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