issued. This aroused the ire of Professor Thompson, who, not being able to find any fault with Mr. Motley, wrote a number of rather bitter letters to the various technical papers, in which he spoke very disparagingly of Messrs. Wiley & Sons, and their conduct in publishing a book he had intended to publish himself. He was so evidently in the wrong, however, that most of the papers refused to allow him space on the subject, and united in defence of the publishers of the book, and Professor Thompson himself has probably by this time seen his mistake.

Of the book itself there is nothing but praise to be said. Mr. Motley is a worker of no mean reputation in this line of work, and his notes are always interesting and instructive. The translation seems to have been well done, so far as can be judged by comparing a few passages of the original which have appeared with the book. Mr. Motley's acquaintance with the vocabulary of the Schoolmen is of great use to him in the work, not that Gilbert was a schoolman, very far from it, but the language of philosophy had only begun to get rid of their marks (if indeed it is entirely free to this day).

On reading the book, we are struck with the sturdy self-confidence of the man, Gilbert of Colchester. He was right, and he knew it. A little bit of this is due possibly to the age he wrote in, but even more, it seems, to the man. Fearless he is in drawing conclusions, and he does not hesitate to dispute the evidence of others when it does not agree with his theory. Yet in one instance only does he appear to have been mistaken, i.e., in his proposed method of finding longitude by the inclination of the compass, which he proposed under the idea that the inclination was constant.

A few extracts from the work will give a good idea of the man and his work.

Before doing so, we may mention the fact that Lord Bacon thought that Gilbert had carried his theory a little too far, and had said that Gilbert had "endeavored to build a ship out of materials not sufficient to form the rowing-pins of a boat."

Page 2. "But lest the story of the loadstone should be jejune, and too brief, to this one sole property then known were appended certain figments and falsehoods, which in early times no less than nowadays were by precocious sciolists and copyists freely out to mankind to be swallowed. For example, they asserted that a loadstone rubbed with garlic does not attract iron nor when it is in presence of a diamond. The like of this is found in Fliny and in Poloneny's "Quadrupartitum," and errors have steadily been spread abroad and been accepted—even as evil and noxious plants ever have the most noxious growth—down to our day, being propagated in the writings of many authors, who, to the end that their volumes might grow to the desired bulk, do write and copy all sorts about ever so many things about which they know naught in the light of experience. Such fables about the loadstone even Georgius Agricola, a man that has deserved well indeed of letters, has inserted as truthful history in his books, 'De Natura Fossilium,' putting his trust in others' writings."

Page 103. "In Baptista Porta's opinion there seems to be a mixture of stone and iron, i.e., ferruginous stone, or stony iron. 'The stone,' he says, 'is not changed into iron so as to lose its own nature, nor is the iron merged in the stone, but that it retains its own essence; and while each strives to overcome each, from the struggle results the attraction of the iron. In the mass of the loadstone there is more stone than iron; therefore the iron, lest it should be dependent on (subdued by) the stone, craves the strength and company of iron, to the end that what it cannot procure of itself it may obtain by the help of the other. The loadstone does not attract stones, because it has no need of them; and if one loadstone attracts another, it is not for the sake of the stone, but of the iron shut up in the stone.' As though the iron in a loadstone were a distinct body, and not blended with one another like all other metals in their ores. And it is a height of absurdity to speak of these substances thus confounded together as warring with each other, and quarreling, and calling out from the battle for forces to come to their aid. Now iron itself when

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