

says, "On the sarcophagus is placed the figure of Sir Isaac Newton in a cumbent posture, with his elbow resting on several of his works. Two youths stand before him with a scroll, on which is drawn a remarkable diagram relative to the solar system, and above that is a converging series." Brewster would surely have said "binomial theorem" instead of "converging series," had the theorem been there.

In the article "Newton" in the *Penny Cyclopædia* (1840) we read, "It is not true that the binomial theorem is also engraven upon it [the monument], though it is so stated under 'Binomial Theorem,' on the authority of several writers." Now all mathematical articles in this cyclopædia are De Morgan's. From the numerous cross-references to mathematical articles made under "Newton" and the absence of references to other articles (such as "Light" and "Gravitation," not written by De Morgan), as well as from other considerations, we infer that the article "Newton" is De Morgan's also. Remembering his accuracy in details, much weight must be attached to this denial. The above passage is reprinted in the *English Cyclopædia* (with the omission of three words), while under "Binomial Theorem" we read, "It is often said, but wrongly, to have been engraven on his tomb in Westminster Abbey."

Thus it appears pretty conclusively that there is no more foundation for the statement that the Binomial Theorem was inscribed on Newton's tomb or monument than there was authority for the story of the "apple" or for the use of the word *fluxion* and the notation \dot{x} by all English writers previous to 1704 (excepting Newton and Cheyne) and by Stone in 1743, in the sense of an infinitely small increment.

NOTES.

A REGULAR meeting of the AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY was held Saturday afternoon, October 27, at three o'clock, the President, Dr. McClintock, in the chair. The following persons, having been duly nominated and being recommended by the Council, were elected to membership: Miss Charlotte Cynthia Barnum, New Haven, Conn.; Professor Robert Lee Flowers, Trinity College, Durham, N. C.; Mr. George H. Hallett, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. Edgar Odell Lovett, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.; Mr. Elmer A. Lyman, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Mr. Max Osterberg, Columbia College, New York, N. Y.; Dr. James P. Pierpont, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; Mr. Ralph Augustus Roberts, New York, N. Y.