for their learning, and especially for their knowledge in the Greek tongue.

Pensieri Diversi, di Alessandro Tassoni. Divers Thoughts, by &c. In Venezia, 1646, in quarto. Of Tassoni, author of the celebrated poem, entitled, La Secchia Rapita, of which I shall speak when I come to it.


This is the celebrated Galileo, who was in the inquisition for six years, and put to the torture, for saying, that the earth moved. The moment he was set at liberty, he looked up to the sky and down to the ground, and, stamping with his foot, in a contemplative mood, said, Eppur si move; that is, still it moves, meaning the earth. I will not omit to inform the reader, that Galileo was a poet, and what is more surprising, a burlesque and easy poet, a qualification not easily met in a profound mathematician, as he certainly was. We have an excellent letter of him to one Rinuccini, in which, making a comparison between Ariosto and Tasso, he gives his vote for Ariosto; yet he does it with modesty, far from putting on that petulant air of decision, peculiar to the French writers; such as Boileau, Boubours, and Voltaire, who,