

For Release                      By Major A. H. Thiessen  
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Blaise Pascal: This noted Frenchman became acquainted with Torricelli's invention of the barometer. Now, Torricelli's great master, Galileo, had taught him that air was a heavy fluid - meaning that it had weight just as a piece of iron or lead. From this Torricelli concluded that it was the weight of the air that held and kept the mercury up in the glass tube. Pascal repeated the experiment, and concluded that if weight was the cause then the height of the mercury would be less the greater the elevation as there would be less air to press down than at the lower level. This he verified by careful experiments done in the presence of several persons.

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