

PREFACE.

THIS little book is not intended to supersede the more elaborate text-books upon the same subject, in use in our Schools, but rather to serve as an introduction to one or other of them. The great mass of Common and Grammar School pupils have not time, amid the many other important studies claiming their attention, to devote to any lengthened course of instruction upon Mensuration. All that the teacher can ordinarily hope, under existing circumstances, to accomplish in this department, is to make his scholars capable of readily computing the area of regular surfaces and the volume or capacity of regular solids. Where more is attempted, it is, as a general thing, done at the expense of other important branches of instruction. Those who are intended for professions which require an intimate knowledge of Land Surveying, Astronomy, Gauging, &c., may, of course, profitably devote one or more entire years to the study of the various departments of mensuration, but for general purposes—for the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, a knowledge of the mensuration of ordinary surfaces and solids is amply sufficient, and it is for such that the following pages have been thrown together.

The rules are given in the form of formulas, because it is believed that they are thus much more readily and lastingly remembered, and a very little effort on the part of the teacher will enable the pupil both to understand the dependence of the rules upon one another, and the interpretation and application of the formulas.

Toronto, October, 1867.