Cui Bono?

If you persist in taking the utilitarian view and ask me what is the good of Mr. Glaisher's determination of the least factors of the missing three out of the first nine million numbers, the volume containing the sixth million having lately been published;—or if you put a much more comprehensive question, what is the use of the Abelian functions, I shall be forced to say, I do not know; and if you press me harder I shall be obliged to express my conviction that nobody knows; but I know, and you know, and everybody may know, who will take the pains to inquire, that the progress of mathematics underlies and sustains all progress in exact knowledge.¹⁰

Whewell, the author of the History of Inductive Sciences, has brought out very clearly the fact that "the opening of Greek civilization was marked by the production of geometry, the idea of space was brought to a scientific precision; vening of modern European and likewise inguished by the production civilization was of a new science, Mechanics, which soon led to the mechanics of the heavens, and this step, like the former, depended on men arriving at a properly distinct fundamental idea, the idea of force. Henry Smith, arguing for the value of his favorite study to mankind, points out the injury which would come to the intellectual strength of any nation "whose notions of the world and of the

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