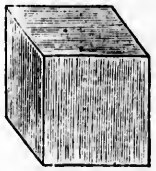
ELEMENTS OF GEOMETRY.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

When a block of stone is hewn from the rock, we call it a Solid *Body*. The stone-cutter shapes it, and brings it into that which we call *regularity of form*; and then it becomes a Solid *Figure*.

Now suppose the figure to be such that the block has six flat sides, each the exact counterpart of the others; so that, to one who stands facing a corner of the block, the three sides which are visible present the appearance represented in this diagram.



Each side of the figure is called a *Surface*; and when smoothed and polished, it is called a *Plane* Surface.

The sharp and well-defined edges, in which each pair of sides meets, are called *Lines*.

The place, at which any three of the edges meet, is called a *Point*.

A *Magnitude* is anything which is made up of parts in any way like itself. Thus, a line is a magnitude; because we may regard it as made up of parts which are themselves lines.

The properties Length, Breadth (or Width), and Thickness (or Depth or Height) of a body are called its *Dimensions*.

We make the following distinction between Solids, Surfaces Lines, and Points:

A Solid has three dimensions, Length, Breadth, Thickness.

A Surface has two dimensions, Length, Breadth.

A Line has one dimension, Length.

A point has no dimensions.