

where it may be obtained, and will advise the publishers of this work, I will see to it that mention of it is made at greater length in future editions.

COLOR OF SQUARES

It is only a few years ago since any changes were made on the surface of squares. An old square that has been in my possession for fifty years and upwards had originally a polished steel surface, but to-day it is oxidized and covered with a coating that protects it from rust and from the weather. This happens to all polished steel squares if kept from getting wet or soiled with moist fingers. This condition, however, tends to render the figures and markings less legible; indeed, in many cases the figures and lines become almost invisible, a very great objection, for I have known some very serious cases where the figures have been mistaken and timbers cut too long or too short in consequence of the mistake.

A polished square should never be rubbed with emery paper or other gritty substance. While such rubbing may make the sides of the square look bright and "tidy," it is sure to injure the square, efface some of the figures and markings, and leave the surface more susceptible to rust.