

No. 3.

Copy of a letter addressed to the Inspector of Training Schools, by order of the President of the Privy Council, London, England.

DECIMALS.

Committee of Council on Education, Council Office, Whitehall, 31st January, 1854.

H. M. INSPECTOR OF TRAINING SCHOOLS.

REV. SIR:—I am directed by the Lord President, to bring under your notice the fact, that there is a very strong feeling in the country that we should adopt a system of decimals in our coinage, and in our weights and measures.

The strongest objection urged against this change is that it would create misapprehension and mistrust in the minds of the people.

The Lord President thinks you might with advantage, call the attention of the principals of training schools, to the importance of thoroughly imbu- ing the students under their charge with such a practical knowledge of decimals as will enable them to disseminate the information needed to accompany such a change.

The Lord President thinks that this may be done by a special notice in your Report, for the year 1853-4; by personal communication in the course of your next circuit of inspection, and by introducing a few questions that bear upon the subject, in the examination papers to be proposed in 1854.

I have, &c.,

R. R. W. LINGEN.

No. 4.

SAVING OF LABOUR BY DECIMAL ACCOUNTS.

From THE BRITANNIA, a London Weekly Newspaper, February 24th, 1855.

That "the saving of labour is a saving of capital," is a self-evident axiom; and by the decimal system of accounts an immense reduction of labour, and consequently increase of capital, may at once be safely calculated upon. Although the exact quantity of time that will be thus rescued from the present tedious course of keeping accounts has been variously estimated, every calculation agrees that the quantity is great; and in respect to the checking of accounts, where a nearer approximation can be got at the amount of time carried to the decimal art of computation, reaches at least ninety-five per cent. Here there is at once a mental labour-saving system, to enhance the wealth of our country to an inappreciable extent, and upon which no doubt whatever can for a moment cloud the accepted impression of its extraordinary powers and efficiency. Like all grand facts "its simplicity is its truth," and its benefits are as ready of access to the merest tyro as to the erudite. Like all great gifts it will moreover take effect at the period when most needed. The increased and increasing circle of our general commercial usefulness, and the increased and increasing *radii* of the operations of individual banking, mercantile, and other extensive establishments, call at once for the practical adoption of this system, and to such it will prove as a new life, removing from the brain of its members an incubus of mental mechanism, which ere long will be looked back upon as barbarous and absurd. At a period too, when the greatest solicitude is being evinced by the far-seer into the mercantile future, with the drain caused by emigration, and mayhap that arising from long protracted war, this labour-saving system will amply compensate for the scarcity of hands, while saving the increased capital which would be necessary for its payment.

Æ 1525.