

HOW TO DETERMINE DISTANCE AT SEA.

The rules for determining the distance of objects seen at sea are very simple and should be known by all. Suppose that the eye of the observer is 18 feet above the level of the ocean. In that case we double 18, which gives us 36, the square root of which is 6. Therefore, the horizon lies at a distance of 6 miles when the observer sees it from an elevation of 18 feet. From a height of 30 feet (which is about that of the eye of an observer on a vessel the size of the City of Rome) we double the distance of the eye above sea level, which gives us 60, the square root of which is 7.8. Hence an object may be seen at a distance of 7.7 miles from a steamer of the size mentioned. If the depth of the part of a distant ship's hull below the horizon is known, the distance of that ship beyond the horizon is obtained in the same way. Then, suppose the depth of the part concealed to be 12 feet, then we take the square root of twice 12, or 24, giving 4.9; showing that the ship's distance beyond the horizon is 4.9 miles. Hence, if a ship is seen with 12 feet of the hull down (that is with 12 feet of the hull invisible), we may correctly infer that its distance is 4.9 miles beyond the distance of the horizon (which, by the figures alone, is proved to be at a distance of 7.7 miles). We add the two sets of figures together and find that the incoming or outgoing vessel is 12.3-5 miles away.

ORIGIN OF THE ROTHSCHILDS' OPULENCE.

Towards the end of the last century, Meyer Amschel Rothschild carried on the business of a banker in the Judenstrasse, Frankfort, and among all those who knew him he enjoyed the reputation of combining great commercial probity with extreme shrewdness. In those days there lived the old Prince Elector of Hesse, who, like an old miser, had hoarded up an immense treasure, by fair means and foul, valued at 8,000,000 thalers, or nearly five millions of our money. When the French invaded his dominions in 1795, they were particularly eager to possess themselves of this treasure, and the Elector, in his emergency, asked Rothschild to take care of it. Rothschild consented. The immense hoards of gold and jewels were conveyed to his residence in the dead of night, and buried in his garden at the moment when the French scouts entered the city. They at once made for Rothschild's house, where they expected to find the coveted treasure, but so well were these millions hidden that the marauders were glad to lay hold of Rothschild's own money, amounting to about 6,000 thalers. When the invaders had left Frankfort, Rothschild dug up some of the Elector's money and devoted it to business transactions. In this he was so successful as to become one of the wealthiest bankers on the banks of the Rhine. After the treaty of the peace of Luneville, in 1801, the Prince Elector returned to his states. While in exile he had heard of Rothschild's house having been pillaged by the ragged regiments of the French Republic, and so he naturally inferred that his beloved treasure must have vanished into thin air. How great and joyful was

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his surprise when the faithful steward informed him that the treasure was intact, and offered to restore it to its legitimate owner, together with five per cent. interest from the day on which it was lodged with him. The grateful prince not only insisted upon Rothschild indemnifying himself for his losses out of the wealth intrusted to him, but also made him keep the millions for another twenty years, at the low rate of two per cent. interest per annum.

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