

better decide on leaving the ranks of the Society, as it comes to the same thing whether his usefulness has departed or there be no one in the Society to appreciate it. And yet there is no one to blame for this, except may be the fact that in addition to the four sections—French and English Literature, Geology, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics, there should or might be a fifth section composed of such men as Huxley, Faraday, Tyndall and the like.

When at the inception of the Society, the writer was made by Lord Borne and his Counsellors one of its foundation members, it must have been for some supposed speciality — presumably on account of his reduction in his treatise of 1866 in the French language of Euclid's Theorems to half their number, while sacrificing none of the conclusions of the Greek Geometer, — or on account of his application of the prismoidal formula to the cubing of almost every known or conceivable elementary form of space-inclosing figure — with the exception only of spindles, their frusta and of ungulae; though even for these the author's system brings out a closer approximation in cask gauging for instance, than a cask gauging rod can do; since the rod but measures the distance between the bung and head without any reference to the curvature between them, while the prismoidal formula takes in as a factor the half way diameter between the bung and head and reduces the 3 to 4 per cent of error by the rod to a mere fraction of one per cent by the author's process.

Again, may be the author's simplified treatment of spheres was not overlooked by the original board and committee, nor his new and curtailed process of arriving at spherical areas, by the so-called spherical excess, tabulated for degrees, minutes, seconds and up to a thousandth of a second or less, in a way to render it possible by mere addition to arrive at the area required of any portion of a sphere, or of a lesser portion of a spheroid in less than 5 minutes.

But likely, the Society since that, absorbed in the more interesting study of Geology, Natural History, Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Electricity, and the writer being one of Sir Edmund Head's, "inferior race" his work was never thereafter looked at or even dreamed of.

And though the author's Alma Mater, the Seminary of Quebec, to cover appearances, made him an M. A. on the strength of it, this institution gave the treatise the cold shoulder because the author was imprudent enough to hint at the possibility of, with such a book, learning mathematics without a master.

The difficulty of illustration, as already set forth, consists not in the doing or how to do, but in conceiving, in fact, of bringing the thing to mind as in illustrating the rotation of the earth upon its axis, when a mounted sphere is not at hand.

For this, an orange or an apple or a well made potato with a bodkin or a knitting needle or a thin pen handle thrust through it