

PREFACE.

To preserve Euclid's order, to supply omissions, to remove defects, to give brief notes of explanation and simpler methods of proof in cases of acknowledged difficulty—such are the main objects of this Edition of the Elements.

The work is based on the Greek text, as it is given in the Editions of August and Peyrard. To the suggestions of the late Professor De Morgan, published in the Companion to the British Almanack for 1849, I have paid constant deference.

A limited use of symbolic representation, wherein the symbols stand for words and not for operations, is generally regarded as desirable, and I have been assured, by the highest authorities on this point, that the symbols employed in this book are admissible in the Examinations at Oxford and Cambridge.¹

I have generally followed Euclid's method of proof, but not to the exclusion of other methods recom-

¹ I regard this point as completely settled in Cambridge by the following notices prefixed to the papers on Euclid set in the Senate-House Examinations:

I. In the Previous Examination:

In answers to these questions any intelligible symbols and abbreviations may be used.

II. In the Mathematical Tripos:

In answers to the questions on Euclid the symbol — must not be used. The only abbreviation admitted for the square on AB is "sq. on AB," and for the rectangle contained by AB and CD, "rect. AB, CD."