

9. The translation from the Greek text, used in the present day, was made by Dr. Robert Simson, Professor of Mathematics in the University of Glasgow: the first edition of which was published about 1753-9. This is, however, superseded by the valuable annotated edition of the "Elements," by Mr. Potts of Trinity College, Cambridge—a standard work that is indispensable to the requirements of the advanced student.

10. All boys should learn and lay to heart Euclid's reply to Ptolemy, when he asked if there was any easier method of acquiring the science of Geometry than by the "Elements?" "THERE IS NO ROYAL ROAD TO GEOMETRY," was the philosopher's answer—and there is no short cut to a knowledge of any branch of learning: we must follow the track that has been patiently and laboriously trodden out for us by those who have gone before us, remembering that diligence, with thoughtful attention to the first steps, can alone make us proficient in any subject of study, always under the blessing of Almighty God.

11. In studying Euclid, first be sure that you thoroughly understand his meaning; do not attempt to pass on to the second definition or proposition until you have mastered the first.

12. Learn the definitions, postulates, and axioms by rote, and associate them in your mind with the numbers affixed to them as they stand in order, that you may be able to repeat any one without turning back, when reference is made to it in any proposition to substantiate the reasoning employed.

13. In going through the Propositions, do not attempt to learn *them* by rote, and never try to repeat them without following every link of reasoning on your diagram.

14. When you think you are master of a Proposition, lay aside your book and endeavour to write it from memory, constructing your diagram, as you proceed, with different letters and in a different form from that given with the text, as pointed out in Propositions 1, 2, and 3, where extra diagrams are given which correspond, one equally well with another, with the requirements of the text: this will firmly fix in your mind the method of proof or demonstration employed.

15. Lastly, remember that your faculties of reasoning and argumentative powers will be sustained and matured by a course of mathematical study: it will enable you to distinguish that which is solid and useful from that which is specious and flimsy, gold from tinsel, TRUTH from FALSEHOOD.

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