

P R E F A C E .

These tables have been prepared, in the hope that they may be useful in diminishing the labour and trouble occasioned by the use of two systems of measures in Canada, of which I have had some experience as a Surveyor and Civil Engineer.

Among unprofessional persons there is a very general want of information with respect to the relative value of our two standards, the old French system and the English, and no means of acquiring that information, except in old almanacs, not to be found, and in expensive works generally inaccessible.

Tables for reducing the metrical system, now established in France, Belgium, and Holland, have been introduced for the purpose of facilitating the use of many valuable tables and formulas in French scientific works. There is another reason for these tables, in the probability that the metrical system will, at some future period, be adopted as a universal decimal system of measures; even now it can be used with advantage in scientific works.

The fact of this decimal system being already the standard of three nations in Europe, including one of the greatest powers of the 19th century, without being founded on any national measure, is certainly a strong recommendation of it as a universal measure. The difference between the mètre and the yard is not so great as to prevent the easy substitution of one for the other in Canada, and thus without rousing the national jealousies of any party, do away with the anomaly of two standard measures; at the same

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