

INTRODUCTION.



IN order to show that some radical reformation is necessary in our decimal and tabular systems, one has only to glance at the financial and market reports of the monetary and commercial centres of the world, as they appear reflected in the leading daily newspapers. A very small fraction in the upward or downward tendency of the articles quoted in the money, stock or provision markets, means thousands—aye, millions—of dollars to the buyers and sellers. The reader will often, therefore, notice such quotations as “11 99-100ths.” and 47 11-16ths.” With the introduction of the decimal system proposed in this pamphlet, all these irregular figures—difficult, too, as they are to be understood—would be entirely dispensed with, and any price could be quoted in plain, simple figures. The use of eighths and sixteenths in the market reports is an unintentional application and introduction of this system—just as the pecking of an incubated chick at the shell surrounding it leads to daylight and freedom. Music and dancing have long been subservient to the quadratic and octave systems, and so have military manœuvres and the simplest squad movements. The quadratic and octave systems are the only means the printer has to numerate and keep track of the folios of his book, and without the square Archimides and Euclid would have cut a sorry figure, and Kepler, the great German astronomer and mathematician, would never have been enabled to compute the distances and dimen-