

system of weights and measures, and introducing in its stead the French metrical system. A bill was introduced in the session of 1863 into Parliament with this avowed object: and though withdrawn, after passing the second reading, has been reintroduced in the present (1864), and reached the same stage, with every prospect of being passed.\* It is true that the change *immediately* proposed is permissive, not compulsory: but there can be no doubt that the attempt, if successful, will be followed up at no distant period by the introduction of a compulsory measure; one whose effect on the habits, feelings, and interests of nine hundred and ninety-nine out of a thousand persons in the whole community, this is not the proper place to dilate upon.

(5.) As civilization extends, wants and desires of a higher order than material gratifications arise; and among them that of extending knowledge *for the sake of knowing*; the craving after a larger grasp, a clearer insight, a more complete conception in all its relations of the wondrous universe of which we form a part. Such desires, when accompanied with the means of their gratification, are included by the author of a recent work of much interest on the subject of wealth (under the somewhat inappropriate title of *Plutology*†), among those

\* It has passed, and is now the law of the land. So far there is no actual harm done, beyond unsettling opinions and creating uneasiness; but we trust the common sense of the nation will repudiate any attempt to carry out to its designed completion a measure so thoroughly retrograde.

† By Professor Hearn, of Melbourne University, Australia. The title ought to have been *Aphnology*. *Aphnos*, or *Aphenos* (*αφνος*,