

arising as to the length of any object stated to contain a given number of such units or its aliquots. A very moderate experience would however suffice to convince anybody that among natural objects of the same kind, even those most common, perfect identity of length, of breadth, of thickness, any more than of weight, is never observed—even a close approach to it rarely—and a very close one extremely so. Still, with all drawbacks so arising on the adoption of a natural standard, the first rude demand for such a standard would be easily enough satisfied, and that in two ways, viz. : 1st, by actually fixing upon some individual among all the existing objects of the sort selected, to the exclusion of others—or, 2dly, by the very natural, though somewhat more refined conception of an ideal medium, or *mean* among a very great multitude of such objects, such as might be regarded as neither unusually great nor unusually little ones of their kind.

(4.) Among objects of common occurrence, the human person, or some distinct member of it would be most likely to claim the attention of mankind as affording a standard of measure ; if only for the very obvious reason that the relation of the sizes of material objects to that of man mainly determines his facility of handling, or otherwise applying them to human uses. Accordingly, the height of a full grown person, the length of his arm, his fore-arm (ulna or ell), his foot, his hand, his ordinary step, &c., would present, and is well known to have presented itself among almost all communities of mankind to their choice for this purpose.