

And so, among all nations whose measures have been handed down to us, we find in speaking of the unit of length, some members of the human person designated. Thus, the bed of the gigantic king of Basan is related to have measured eight cubits in length "after the cubit (*i.e.*, the fore-arm) of a man." The height of Goliath the Philistine was "six cubits *and a span*." The bow of Pandarus, described by Homer, was formed of the horns of an Ibex, which grew out sixteen *palms* (or hand-breadths) from his head. The Romans reckoned their distances by intervals of 1000 *paces* (*millia passuum*) whence our *name* for a mile, though differing widely in reality. If, however, we may judge from the great diversity in the actual lengths adopted under the common name of "a foot" as the standards of different nations, we shall see reason to believe that the typical foot selected was usually that of an individual—some Chief, King, or High Priest, who could claim pre-eminence among them as a man *par excellence*, and who would seem to have been generally above the average stature. Thus we find the Roman foot equivalent to 11.6 of our inches; the English to 12; the Greek to 12.1; the French to 12.8; and the Egyptian or "Drusian" to 13.1—all of them (especially the two last) in excess of the real length of the foot of a well-proportioned man of medium stature (say 5ft. 10in.) which does not exceed  $10\frac{3}{4}$ , or at the most 11 inches.

(5.) Another class of objects, which, from the universality of their occurrence in vast numbers, and their general uniformity of dimension, would naturally occur as