

any kind of medium magnitude, among multitudes of objects of a like species which occur in nature. Such must, of necessity, be chosen among organic structures of the animal or vegetable kingdom (for among inorganic masses of whatever kind, nature presents no instance of a *mean* or typical magnitude, as distinct from the *average* of a number accidentally assembled, which may differ to any extent from an average similarly taken of an equal number elsewhere collected). And among the former classes of objects, even were it possible to assemble and measure them in sufficient numbers to afford a true *typical mean*, we should have no security for its identity in different ages and climates.

(7.) We are driven then, in our choice of a *universal* standard to the selection, either of some individual object, (if such there be) natural or artificial, imperishable in its nature, unsusceptible of variation by lapse of time or decay, and indestructible by accident—or else, to some ideal or resultant length or magnitude (if such there be), susceptible by its definition of being as it were translated into a material expression, and marked out as the result of some process which we are sure will, in all ages and places reproduce the same identical result. And besides these qualities of invariability, indestructibility and identical reproducibility it ought to possess some obvious claim to *general* acceptance as of common interest to all mankind, or at least to all the civilized portion of it: an interest from which national partialities and rivalries should be altogether excluded.

(8.) The individual human type is at once excluded