

treatise, adapted for the perusal of non-mathematical readers. On the completion of this, it was suggested by the publisher of that work to collect and reprint them together,—a proposal the more welcome, as it afforded an opportunity for bringing together several other pieces of a somewhat similar character, some of which, though not properly characterized as “Lectures,” it seemed desirable to reproduce. More especially, it appeared to the Author an imperative duty to let no opportunity pass of recalling the attention of the public to the great question of the proposed abandonment of our national system of weights and measures, and adoption in its stead of the metrical system of the French, with its unit, the metre, in place of the English yard, which has been so actively, and, in his opinion, so mischievously urged on Parliament; the agitation in favour of which only sleeps for the present, in the view of allowing the public mind to familiarize itself with the idea under a Permissive Act,—to be assuredly brought forward again with renewed activity, and under a more intense and prolonged pressure (to be met by a more concentrated and determined resistance), on no distant occasion.