

**PROJECT OF A NEW SYSTEM OF
ARITHMETIC, WEIGHT, MEASURE
AND COINS, PROPOSED TO BE
CALLED THE TONAL SYSTEM,
WITH SIXTEEN TO THE BASE**

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JOHN W. NYSTROM

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PROJECT

OF A

New System of Arithmetic,

WEIGHT, MEASURE AND COINS,

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TONAL SYSTEM,

WITH SIXTEEN TO THE BASE.

BY

William
JOHN W. NYSTROM, C. E

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To the International Association

*for obtaining a Uniform Decimal System
of Weights, Measures and Coins :*

GENTLEMEN:—

The substance of this book was laid before the meeting held by the British branch of your Association, at Bradford, England, on the 11th of October, 1859. I have since made great effort both in England and America to have the same published, but have not succeeded until now, when done at my own expense. I incur constant outlays for the general interest in promoting science and the arts, for which I expect no remuneration.

Scientific men of good standing have remarked that it would not be proper to publish the correspondence with the Decimal Association, and that with the —— Society of Philadelphia, but I am of a different opinion. I do not publish the correspondence referred to, for the sake of showing which of us are right or wrong, but simply for the discussion, which I consider to be of some importance in digesting the subject, and it may save others from making similar remarks on the same. The remarks made on my new system of arithmetic, by the Decimal Association, and the —— Society are of very little importance further than of giving rise to discussion on the subject, but they

have proved of great importance in preventing the publication of the herein called *tonal system*.

I shall always be very glad to hear any remarks on the subject, as I am well convinced that the more it is attempted to defend the decimal arithmetic, the more its folly will be exposed.

When the book is published, one copy shall be sent to each member of the International Decimal Association, and I shall feel gratified and compensated if it receives your attention.

The noble object of your Association deserves all possible success, and it is your agreeable duty to endeavour to relieve us of the present dreary and complicated calculations, and to establish such system, as in all its bearings would become the most simple and efficient for all classes of mankind, and our descendants will thank you for ever.

If I knew of no better than the decimal arithmetic, I would get along very well with it, but now unfortunately, when I get entangled in the complication with long decimal tails, I grumble long verses over it.

I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN W. NYSTROM,

Engineer.

Philadelphia, in January, 1862.

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