THE METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES: AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AT ALBANY, AUGUST 1, 1871

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FREDERICK A. P. BARNARD

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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE CONVOCATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, AT ALBANY, AUGUST 1, 1871;

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PREFACE.

On the eighth day of August, 1866, the Convocation of the University of the State of New York, being then in session at Albany, was addressed by the Hon. John A. Kasson, a member of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States from Iowa, and Chairman of a Committee of that body appointed to consider the possibility of securing a uniform system of Coinage, Weights and Measures for all nations. Congress had then recently (July 27th, 1866), passed an act legalizing the use of the metrological system known as "The Metric System of Weights and Measures," in all business transactions in the United States; and, two years earlier, a similar act had passed the British Parliament. It was known that the system had met with large acceptance on the continent of Europe, and also in the greater portion of the American continent south of our own territory; and it was also known that the use of this system was becoming more extended every year.

The aim and hope of Mr. Kasson had been that he might enlist the large body of enlightened educators forming the University Convocation, in an active effort to advance the cause of metrological reform in our country, by diffusing among the people information in regard to the Metric System; by pointing out the merits of this system; and by meeting the objections with which the proposition to naturalize it