

**AN IMPORTANT QUESTION IN METROLOGY,
BASED UPON RECENT AND ORIGINAL
DISCOVERIES: A CHALLENGE TO "THE
METRIC SYSTEM," AND AN EARNEST WORD
WITH THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES ON
THEIR ANCIENT WEIGHTS AND MEASURES**

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An important question in metrology, based upon recent and original discoveries: a challenge to "the metric system," and an earnest word with the English-speaking peoples on their ancient weights and measures by Charles A. L. Totten

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CHARLES A. L. TOTTEN

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THE ARMS AND CREST
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
AND THE
OBVERSE OF THE NATIONAL SEAL.



Ho! to the land *shadowing with wings*,—which is *beyond* the rivers of Ethiopia:
that sendeth ambassadors *by sea*,—even in ships of *whirling things* upon the waters.—
Isa. xviii. 1.

TO THE
ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLES
OF THE EARTH, WHO ALREADY POSSESS
THE WORLD'S GATES OF COMMERCE; WHO RAISE ITS
FOOD-SUPPLY, LOCK UP ITS SURPLUS, AND CONDUCT ITS TRADE;
WHO OWN ITS MINES, COIN ITS MONEY, AND CONTROL ITS INDUSTRY; WHO
INVENT ITS MEANS OF PROGRESS, CULTIVATE ITS INTELLECT, AND
ELEVATE ITS RELIGION; WHO TONE ITS MORALS,
LIBERATE ITS INHABITANTS, AND STEM
ITS TIDE OF ERRORS,
THIS BRIEF SURVEY OF A TOPIC PREGNANT
WITH WEIGHTY IMPORT
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY THE AUTHOR.

*"I swear unto the Soul of Isis, that I have not
altered the Sacred Cubit of my fathers."*

THE OATH OF THE EGYPTIAN DEAD (MONUMENTS OF EGYPT).

METROLOGY.

“But thou shalt have a *perfect and just* WEIGHT, a *perfect and just* MEASURE *shalt thou have*: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” — DEUTERONOMY xxv. 15.

Ὁ Θεὸς μάλιστα πάντων γεωμετερεῖ.

“He created Wisdom, and saw her, and *numbered* her, and poured her out upon all his works.”—ECCLESIASTICUS I. 9.

“Thou hast ordered all things in *measure* and *number* and *weight*.”—WISDOM XL. 20.

PREFACE.

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,

And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,

And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh." — DEUT. xxxiii., 13-17.

THE race to whom these pages are dedicated is by blood, by letter, and by the spirit, literally "called in Isaac's name." As Saxons, they are the lineal descendants of the "Saka-i-Sunnia," or "Sons of Saac;" while, by the particular branch through which they derive their lofty genealogy, they are the posterity of Joseph, "the beloved son," "to whom pertained the birthright."

The Egyptian extraction of his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, bequeaths to them, together with all the blessings "of him who was separated from his brethren," an inheritance none the less royal and significant in the mysterious land of their mother, "Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, Prince of On." Though, like another and a greater Son of Jacob, it is true that they were, in early days, "called out of Egypt," it is none the less true that the summons was simply given to them for the purpose of extending the possibilities of their ultimate dominion.

In these latter days, when the ends of the earth seem literally to draw nigh unto us, when every nation is so deeply impressed with the uncertainties surrounding the long-contested solution of "the Eastern ques-

tion," when an intense and ever-increasing expectancy has settled down upon the whole human race, it may well be asked if it is not a little remarkable to see the flags of these two *brother* nations united for the first time, since their independence, in the streets of Alexandria? In 1882 the bronzed tars of England and America, of "Brothers John and Jonathan," — the only nations called "brethren" upon the face of the earth, — landed together on the shores of the delta of that ancient stream upon whose banks their fathers, also brothers, had lived as princes twice eighteen centuries before. Shall we endeavor to convince ourselves, that, in this act, there was no overruling exercise of that Will which weaves the thread of destiny? or shall we cease to doubt, and yield to the conviction that there is indeed a power that giveth the dominion unto whom it will?

In the same year, 1882, both England and America struck off commemorative medals, upon whose reverse faces the two most mysterious emblems of Egypt, the Sphinx and Pyramid, were severally displayed as central devices. In their inception these medals had not the remotest connection. The one was the Egyptian war-medal of Great Britain: the other was the centennial seal-medal of the United States. Nevertheless, a strenuous effort was made to induce the Queen to adopt the Pyramid as the central emblem for the British war-medal. It had already been used by America that very year; and it was not likely that an occasion for its simultaneous employment by the two nations would soon, if ever again, occur. But Ephraim is not Manasseh, and so the idea of the Sphinx was adhered to by our fraternal nation as for it the most appropriate. Was Providence, which counts the hairs upon a human head, also an unconcerned spectator then? And were these matters really trivial things, and, after all, of no historic moment?

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them how we will."

And it was no accident that the greatest commercial city of each of these two brother and Egyptian nations was at this same time graced with one of the two obelisks, that, when their father Joseph married the Princess Asenath, had stood, like Jachin and Boaz, in strength and beauty on each side the portal of her father's temple.