

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE ELEMENTS OF
PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY**

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An Introduction to the Elements of Practical Astronomy by James R. Christie

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JAMES R. CHRISTIE

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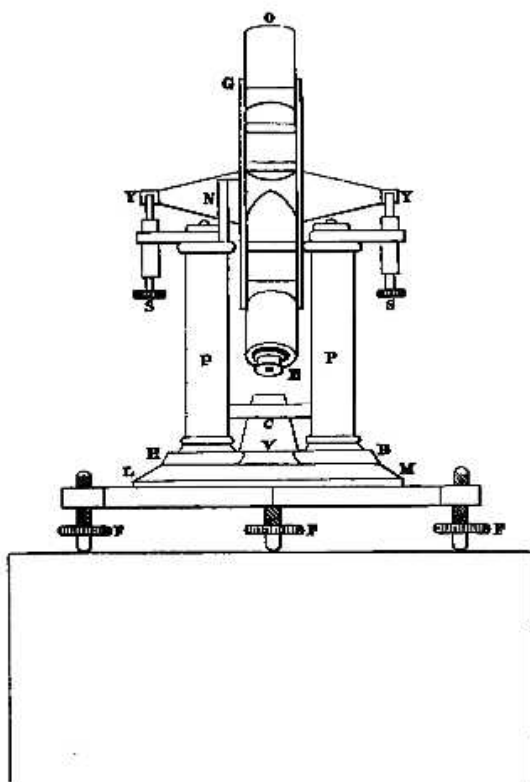
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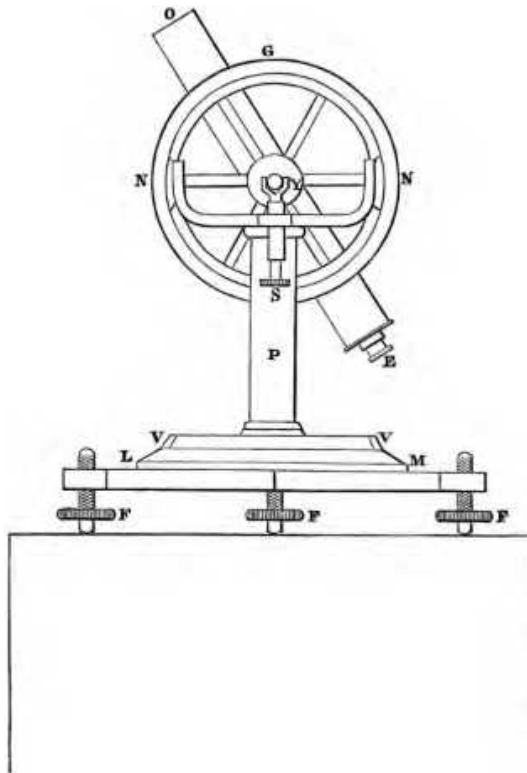
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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages comprise the substance of a short series of explanatory lectures delivered in the course of tuition to my pupils in the Royal Military Academy. Having myself long felt the want of an elementary work which, without entering far into the details of Physical Astronomy on the one hand, or, on the other, attempting to include within its scope the more delicate questions of instrumental manipulation, would lay a solid theoretical basis for the future progress of the student, and afford at the same time sufficient insight into the fundamental modes of observation to render available the ordinary knowledge of Spherical Trigonometry acquired in our professional schools, I have here attempted to supply the deficiency.

I have, as much as possible, avoided giving specific rules or formulæ for the various forms of problems, preferring to throw the student on his own resources of knowledge of the general principles which apply to each particular case, by rendering it essential for him to refer to the astronomical figure for the elucidation of the means of solution. I believe this to be the best means of eradicating the too common spirit of dependence upon the recollection of formulæ, and of inducing an amount of self-reliance which