BONNYCASTLE'S INTRODUCTION TO ALGEBRA: CONTAINING THE INDETERMINATE AND DIOPHANTINE ANALYSIS, AND THE APPLICATION OF ALGEBRA TO GEOMETRY, WITH A LARGE COLLECTION OF PROBLEMS FOR EXERCISE, PP. 1-283 Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

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# J. BONNYCASTLE & J. RYAN & J. F. JENKINS

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JAMES RYAN.

# PREFACE.

The powers of the mind, like those of the body, are increased by frequent exercise; application and industry supply the place of genus and invention; and even the creative faculty itself may be strengthened and improved by use and perseverance. Uncultivated nature is uniformly rude and imbedie, it being by imitation alone that we at first acquire knowledge, and the means of extending its bounds. A just and perfect acquaintance with the simple elements of science, is a necessary step towards our future progress and advancement; and this assiated by laborious investigation and habitual inquiry, will constantly lead to eminence and perfection.

Books of rudiments, therefore, concisely written, well digested, and methodically actaoged, are transaces of inestimable value; and too many attempts cannot be made to render them perfect and complete. When the first principles of any art or science are firmly fixed and rooted in the mind, their application soon becomes easy, pleasant and obvious; the understanding is delighted and enlarged; we conceive clearly, reason distinctly, and form just and satisfactory conclusions. But, on the contrary, when the mind, instead of reposing on the stability of truth and received principles, is wandering in doubt and uncertainty, our ideas will necessarily be confrared and obscure; and every step we take must be attended with fresh difficulties and calless perplexity.

That the grounds, or facedancental parts of every science, are dull and uncentertaining, is a complaint universally made, and a truth not to be denied; but then, what is obtained with difficulty is usually remembered with ease; and what is purchased with pain is often possessed with pleasure. The seeds of knowledge are sown in every soil, but it is by proper culture alone that they are cherished and brought to maturity. A few years of early and assiduous application never fails to procure us the reward of our industry; and who is there, who knows the pleasures and advantages which the sciences afford, that would think his time, in this case, misspent, or his labours useless? Riches and honours are the gift of fortune, essanly bestowed, or hereditarily received, and are frequently abased by their possessors; but the superiority of wisdom and knowledge is a pre-eminence of merit, which originates with the man, and is the noblest of all distinctions.

Nature, bountiful and wise in all things, has provided us with an infinite variety of scenes, both for our instruction and entertainment; and, like a kind and indulgent parent, admits all her children to an equal participation of her blessings. But as the modes, situations, and circumstances of life are various, so accident, habit, and education, have each their predominating influence, and give to every mind its partic-