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WEIGHTS AND MEASURES,

ANCIENT AND MODERN;

REDUCED TO THE STANDARDS

OF THE

United States of America.

BY

J. H. ALEXANDER.

NEW YORK:

D. VAN NOSTRAND, 192 BROADWAY.

1867.

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ENTERED, according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1850,
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И 5877-50

TO

ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE,

SUPERINTENDANT OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

OF THE UNITED STATES

ETC. ETC. AND



TOKEN

OF

FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT.

D. EX. APR 10 1922

—Ego quidem, postquam a tenellâ jam ætate is maxime rebus operam dare cæpi quæ in publicum forent aliquando utiles, crescente dein avo, quicquid olim profuturum videri poterat, sedulò annotavi.— Alca igitur a mè jacta est in edendis quæ tum ex propriis, tum et ex aliorum observationibus collegeram.

EISENSCHMID: de Fond. et Mens.

P R E F A C E .

THE chief materials of the following Work have been gradually accumulated during researches which from time to time, for several years, I have occupied myself in making upon Weights and Measures. These researches have been principally in an historical aspect; and the materials themselves were collected to serve for my own use as a guide in detecting and, in the absence of other proof, of proving the migrations and commerce of different nations and at different periods.

But when they had grown to nearly their present bulk, it occurred to me that their publication in a shape somewhat like the present, might be useful; not only to those whose tastes and studies were like my own and whose investigations might thus come to be helped by my labor, but also to others who might find them of convenient reference and application in ordinary concerns of business or education.

To all these classes of persons and objects, I believe the present collection will be found to offer information more extensive, and more convenient than any existing work; while for the two latter, particularly—the young, who are to learn, and those engaged in Commerce, who are to apply—it supplies a defect which has been suffered for a long time, the absence of any book, giving to any considerable extent, much less universally, the reduction of foreign Weights and Measures to our own American Standards. It is true the elder English Cambists, before 1825, answered the purpose; because up to that time the standards of Great Britain and of the United States were substantially the same. But these older works are now out of print and no longer generally accessible; and besides, since that time, there has been more than one important addition to accuracy on this subject, so that they would need considerable corrections. Since 1825, the English capacity-standards differ systematically from our own; and the values of the gallon and bushel, for instance, given in newer Works for that country, no longer serve for this.