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OUR DEBT TO THE PAST  
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AND AN ESSAY ON  
MATHEMATICS AND THE FINE ARTS

BY  
V. E. JOHNSON, B.A.  
AUTHOR OF 'THE USES AND TRIUMPHS OF MATHEMATICS'

'We are what we are, we possess what we possess, even in the very elements of our knowledge—thanks to the labours of the ancients.'—*Max Müller.*

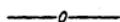


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PREFACE.



THE favourable reception accorded to my 'Uses and Triumphs of Mathematics' has led to the publication of this little work, in which I have endeavoured to give, in a popular form, a clear, concise, and, as far as possible, accurate account of what modern science, in conjunction with ancient testimony, has revealed to us about the scientific knowledge of one, if not of *the* most remarkable and interesting people of antiquity; and by so doing to illustrate, *not* the superiority of the ancients to the moderns, than which nothing can be more untrue, but to show that those who preceded us by many, many centuries