## AMERICAN CITIZEN.

VOLUME 3.
The Metric System of Weights and Measures. official


## SPEECH OF HON. CHAS. SUMNER ject marevividd d difirent iuss in Co

BUTLER, BUTLER COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1866.

## 

the conception seems to have been rather
rast than practical. 'There in reason to
beliero, ffrom later labors, that there was
a serious error in the the





## Whe ithen ite he men men lom <br> 

$\mathrm{l}^{\text {legti }}$ ed

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 a. asstem that should be common to the
evivilzed world. It is for us now to rec.
ognize the sta ognize the staodard wich hail to a stan
tentiously deseribed. All
ard "invarable and universal." I shall not occupy your time inader part of our Goverament. But I cannut forbear mentioning that Mr. Jofferson, forate report. in which he proposed to
duce "every branch to the same deciu ratio already established in eoins, and affairs of life within the ne principa every man who can multiply and divide
we reement in that common system which
westablish. This was in 1790
efforts which ended at last in the estab-
lighment of the metric system. The sub- the proportions of the human form.
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$\qquad$
$\qquad$
becomes important, just io proportion to
the community of interests among diff
erent naticns. Next to diversity of lan
guages, the discordant systems of weight

## nd measures attest the insulation of na tions.

The earliest measures were naturally
Crived from the several parts of the hu derived from
man body.
was the dis
he end of the middle fan the elbow and wend of the middle fiager, being abo
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
$\begin{aligned} & \text { minah-progression, so that the first four } \\ & \text { rules of arit } p_{\text {puetic are ample for the }} \\ & \text { pil. }\end{aligned}$
$\qquad$
We must coufess its simplieity and syste

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { We wust eoufess its simplieity and sym- } \\
& \text { metry. Like every rea.too of siene, } \\
& \text { it is diecording to to rule. Master the rule }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { it is siecording to rule. Master the rule } \\
& \text { and you master the system. On this ac- }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { count it may be acquired by the young } \\
& \text { with comparative facility and when once } \\
& \text { acauired it may fhe }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { with comparative faeility, and when once } \\
& \text { aequired it may be used with dispatel; } \\
& \text { Thus it beconies laborsaving and time }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Thus it becomes labor saving and time- } \\
& \text { saving I eanot hesitate to mention its } \\
& \text { merits the nomenclature which it has }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { merits the nomenclature which it has } \\
& \text { adopted. A superficial eriticism has ob } \\
& \text { iden }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { jected to the Greek and Latin prefixes, } \\
& \text { but this forgets that a system intended }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\left|\begin{array}{l}
\text { but this torgets that a system intended } \\
\text { for noiveral a adoption must discard all } \\
\text { loeal or national terms. The prefixes em }
\end{array}\right|
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { local or national terms. The prefixase em } \\
& \text { ployed are equally intelligible in all coun- } \\
& \text { tope }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { proes They are ne more French than } \\
& \text { tries. The } \\
& \text { English or German. They are in their }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { nature common or cosmopolitan. And in } \\
& \text { all countries they are equally suggestive }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { all countries they are equally suggestive } \\
& \text { in disclosing the denomination of the } \\
& \text { measure. They combine the'peculiar ad. }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { measure. They combine the'peculiar ad } \\
& \text { vantages of a universal name and a defini } \\
& \text { tion }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { vantages of aniversal name and a defini } \\
& \text { tion. The name instantly suggests the } \\
& \text { miensare with exquisite precision. If }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { menaure with exquisite precision. If } \\
& \text { these wort scem to be seholastic or pe- } \\
& \text { dantic yau must bear this for the sake of }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Unquestionably it is difficult for a gen- } \\
& \text { eration to subsstituta a new system for } \\
& \text { that which it learned in childhood. Even }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { that which it learned in childhood. Even } \\
& \text { in France the metrie system was tardily } \\
& \text { ad } 1 \text { pted Napoleon himself, on one oce. }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { easion, said impatienty to an engineer } \\
& \text { ewo nnssered his inquiry in meters } \\
& \text { " What are meters? Tell me in toises." } \\
& \text { "t was only in } 1840 \text { that the system was }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { It was only in } 1840 \text { that the esstem was } \\
& \text { definitely required in the ranasetion of } \\
& \text { business. Since then it has boen the on }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { business. Since then it has boen the le- } \\
& \text { gal system of Franee, Cloth is isold by } \\
& \text { the meter. Roads are measured by the }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { kemer. Neat is sold by the kilo- } \\
& \text { kilometer. Ner } \\
& \text { gram, or as it is familiarly abridged, by }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { gram, or as it is familiarly abridged, by } \\
& \text { so many kilos. } \\
& \text { It is generally admitted that the names }
\end{aligned}
$$

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { It is generall/ admitted that the names } \\
& \text { are too long, although nobody has been } \\
& \text { able to suggest substitutes, unless we re- }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { able to suggest substitutes, unless we re- } \\
& \text { gard the various abrigments in thay } \\
& \text { light. But no abridggnent should be al- }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Would be be entirecty different from the } \\
& \text { would } \\
& \text { French names.. This is a mistake. The } \\
& \text { names in all languages should be identi- }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { names in on languages should be identi- } \\
& \text { cal, or so nearly alike as to be reognized } \\
& \text { at once. This may be accomplishod by }
\end{aligned}
$$

$\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { posed in the bills before Congress. The } \\ & \text { oxample of Great Pritian is of especial } \\ & \text { impor }\end{aligned}\right.$ xample of Grat Brition is of especial
importance to sa, since the ecmmercial
relations betwen , elations between the tro, eountries ren
er it essential that there should oummonsystem of weights nhol measures
On this point and On this point we eannot afford to differ Com each other.
The adoption
The endoption of the metric system by
he United Stetes will go far to hat cirele by tet which whill go far to complete nent will be assured to mankind. Here a new agent of civilization which will fo felt in all the congegens of life, at
home and abrond. It will bo mportant than the At will be hardig less hich the operations of arithmerals, by


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\begin{aligned}
& \text { Which the To } \\
& \text { resentative. } \\
& \text { As the first }
\end{aligned}
$$

As the
d I ask the practical step to this.great
the bills which have already passe 1 ported from the special committee on the metrie system. By these enaetments the American people, and will bed to the pproved instrument of commerece. It
rill not be forced iato use, but eff for the present to its out will be he schools. Arith -They who have already passed a cer-
 Choicesterwards number it amomong the
lization.
-During the first years of the
says the Bellows Fall "'lime,"
-hange was scarce and some large firms
werc issuing currency of their own, a
farmer went to a tore iu a neighboring lown and bought some goods, and gave to
the merchant a five dolllor bill he merohant a five dollar bill, of whinfik
he wanted seventy-five cents back. The
nerehant counted nerehant counted out the amount and $d$ at it a omer to the farmer. He took-
his ?" "It's maired, "W nerchant. "Wol, "taint good for nothing where I live,", said the farm for nothin' you get a dolline merchant, "keep it till oy store and I will give you a dollar bill
$\qquad$
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$\qquad$
A Good Rule.- - A men who is very
 play till my work was finished, and never spend my mones until I had earned ity
If I had but one hour's work in a day fy
must do that the fros thing and nust do that the first thing, and in an
hour, and after this I was allowed then
lay ; and I th play ; and I thea could play with more
pleasure than if I had the thought of an anfinished task before my mind. I early
furmed the habit of doing everythang in
ime, and it soon became time, and it soon became perfectly easy
to do so. It is to tuis I owe my pros
perity"

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { pentine add wearing apparol. } \\
& \text {-Rev. Daniel Dorehester estimates }
\end{aligned}
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { the number of children and youth bo- } \\
& \text { tween the ages of five and twenty in the }
\end{aligned}
$$ tween the ages of five and twen

United States at $\mathbf{1 2 , 5 7 , 7 3 2 9}$.
-Hindoostan exports alike, shardss carpets, opium, salyequere, pepper, gum,
indigo, einamono; ;pochineal, diamond
pearls and drugs. pearls and drags.

- Switzerland
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