

weight; for example, a pound, an ounce, etc, and then show how many times one of these weights is contained in that which we are endeavouring to ascertain.

The determination, or the measure of magnitudes of all kinds, is reduced to this: fix at pleasure upon any one known magnitude of the same species with that which is to be determined, and consider it as the measure or unit; then, determine the proportion of the proposed magnitude to this known measure.

This proportion is always expressed by numbers; so that a number is nothing but the proportion of one magnitude to another arbitrarily assumed as the unit.

In Algebra, we consider only numbers, which represent quantities, without regarding the different kinds of quantities.