

mathematicians share in common with all mankind to wish to know something of the personality and the surroundings of the men whose works have influenced the progress of civilization. In accordance with this general wish we find more and more the collected works of great mathematicians accompanied by biographical notices except when they form special works accessible to all, as in the case of Abel or Hamilton. Who has not read with pleasure the touching *Lebenslauf* of Riemann which Dedekind wrote for the *Gesammelte Werke*, or the biographical sketches attached to the Works of Henry Smith and the Lectures and Essays of Clifford?

For a long time the details of Galois's life were surrounded with mystery. Like a blazing comet his genius appeared to the mathematical world only to disappear with equal suddenness into the gloom of impenetrable obscurity. The introductory remarks of Liouville to his works and possibly the affecting sketch by his friend Chevalier in the *Revue Encyclopédique* comprised all that most of us knew of him. Today, thanks to the patient and loving labors of M. Paul Dupuy, the details of his life are quite well known. Appearing, however, in the *Annales de l'École Normale Supérieure*, this valuable monograph cannot be purchased separately and so is not readily accessible to all. Would not a short sketch containing the principal features of Galois's life have been a valuable addition?

We close here our suggestions; they have been offered solely in the hope that when a new edition becomes necessary it may be enlarged along the lines here indicated and so spread still more widely the appreciation of Galois's genius and the usefulness of his theories.

YALE UNIVERSITY,  
November, 1898.

JAMES PIERPONT.

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### THREE MEMOIRS ON GEOMETRY.\*

*Thèse sur la géométrie non-euclidienne.* Par M. L. GÉRARD, Professeur au Lycée Ampère (Lyon). Paris, Gauthier-Villars et fils, 1892. 4to, 110 pp.

*Lezioni di Geometria intrinseca.* Per ERNESTO CESÀRO, Professore ordinario della R. Università di Napoli. Naples, Alvano, 1896. 8vo, 264 pp.

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\* The order in which these memoirs appear above is that given in the official announcement and presumably determined by lot, since the regulations of the Lobatschewsky Prize specify that precedence shall be so determined in case of a tie.