

Charles Babbage

## Reflections on the Decline of Science in England, and on Some of Its Causes

in large print

# Reflections On The Decline Of Science In England A

**Charles Babbage, Gerard Moll**



## Reflections On The Decline Of Science In England A:

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*Reflections on the Decline of Science in England and on Some of Its Causes* is a book written by Charles Babbage a prominent English mathematician philosopher and inventor The book addresses Babbage's concerns about the state of scientific research and development in England during that time Babbage examines the factors he believed were contributing to the decline of scientific progress in his country He criticizes the lack of support and funding for scientific endeavors the absence of scientific societies and institutions and the limited opportunities for scientific education and advancement Babbage argues that the decline in scientific pursuits has adverse consequences for society as a whole He asserts that scientific progress is essential for national prosperity technological advancement and intellectual growth Babbage emphasizes the importance of nurturing a scientific culture and providing adequate resources and infrastructure to support scientific research Furthermore Babbage reflects on the broader implications of the decline of science in England He explores the impact on various fields including industry agriculture and the overall well being of the nation Babbage expresses his concerns about England's position in the global scientific community and the potential consequences of falling behind other nations in scientific achievements

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Extract PREFACE Of the causes which have induced me to print this volume I have little to say my own opinion is that it will ultimately do some service to science and without that belief I would not have undertaken so thankless a task That it is too true not to make enemies is an opinion in which I concur with several of my friends although I should hope that what I have written will not give just reason for the permanence of such feelings On one point I shall speak decidedly it is not connected in any degree with the calculating machine on which I have been engaged the causes which have led to it have been long operating and would have

produced this result whether I had ever speculated on that subject and whatever might have been the fate of my speculations If any one shall endeavour to account for the opinions stated in these pages by ascribing them to any imagined circumstance peculiar to myself I think he will be mistaken That science has long been neglected and declining in England is not an opinion originating with me but is shared by many and has been expressed by higher authority than mine I shall offer a few notices on this subject which from their scattered position are unlikely to have met the reader s attention and which when combined with the facts I have detailed in subsequent pages will be admitted to deserve considerable attention The following extract from the article Chemistry in the Encyclopaedia Metropolitana is from the pen of a gentleman equally qualified by his extensive reading and from his acquaintance with foreign nations to form an opinion entitled to respect Differing from him widely as to the cause I may be permitted to cite him as high authority for the fact

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