APPLICATIONS OF GRASSMANN'S EXTENSIVE ALGEBRA.

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I propose to communicate in a brief form some applications of Grassmann's theory which it seems unlikely that I shall find time to set forth at proper length, though I have waited long for it. Until recently I was unacquainted with the Ausdehnungslehre, and knew only so much of it as is contained in the author's geometrical papers in *Crelle's Journal* and in *Hankel's Lectures on Complex Numbers.* I may, perhaps, therefore be permitted to express my profound admiration of that extraordinary work, and my conviction that its principles will exercise a vast influence upon the future of mathematical science.

The present communication endeavors to determine the place of Quaternions and of what I have elsewhere* called Biquaternions in the more extended system, thereby *explaining* the laws of those algebras in terms of simpler laws. It contains, next, a generalization of them, applicable to any number of dimensions; and a demonstration that the algebra thus obtained is always a compound of quaternion algebras which do not interfere with one another.

On the Relation of Grassmann's Method to Quaternions and Biquaternions; and on the Generalization of these Systems.

Following a suggestion of Professor Sylvester, I call that kind of multiplication in which the sign of the product is reversed by an interchange of two adjacent factors, *polar* multiplication; because the product ab has opposite properties at its two ends, so that $ab = -ba$. The ordinary or commutative multiplication I shall call *scalar*, being that which holds good of scalar numbers. These words answer to Grassmann's *outer* and *inner* multiplication; which names, however, do not describe the multiplication itself, but rather those geometrical circumstances to which it applies.

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