

multiplying numbers together. Yet **Napier** made this tremendous invention entirely by himself. There is no other claimant for even a share in the honour. Out of his own mind, by the principles of pure reason, he evolved the system of logarithms. He first hit upon the idea. He worked it out entirely himself. His brain had both the power to conceive and the endurance to do the sheer hard labour which was necessary. He owed his achievement not to a lucky accident or to a moment's inspiration, but to long and laborious contemplation and deduction. The fact that he spent twenty years at the work before he published his first book on the subject demonstrates very clearly the truth of this statement. As to the method by which **Napier** proceeded we have no certain knowledge. In any case, it is probable that only an educated and specialised brain could even follow his train of thought. Few of us are any the wiser when we are told that he reached his primary conclusions by contemplating the idea of two points moving each along a straight line, one at a uniform, the other at an accelerated, rate. We can but marvel at this invention, not chiefly on account of its material value, but as an intellectual achievement. The work done by **Napier** was at once isolated, complete, and conclusive.