PREFACE.

The letters which are collected and published in the following pages appeared, at intervals during 1885 and 1886, in the columns of the *Japan Mail*. The task of rescuing them from comparative inaccessibility in the files of that journal, and presenting them as a whole to scientific readers, was undertaken for several reasons, of which the principal is that the discussion they embody throws unusual, perhaps unprecedented, light on the difference between American and English bridges and on their comparative merits. The controversy was provoked by a review—which also appeared in the *Japan Mail*—of Mr. Waddell’s *Memoir*; a work prepared chiefly for the benefit of Japanese readers, the majority of whom are, of course, strangers to the contents of the English press. For their sake, therefore, the desirability of reprinting the letters in pamphlet form strongly presented itself. Unfortunately, the discussion is not without evidences of a spirit which looks out of place in the context of scientific enquiry. But to expunge these traces of rancour would have disturbed the continuity of the argument, and they have consequently been suffered to remain as blemishes too common to be serious. There is much to be said still on the interesting subject of American *versus* English bridges, and one may venture to hope that it will be said without greatly disturbing national conservatism. Mr. Waddell has made a good beginning, for which impartial men generally, and Japanese students in particular, will be grateful to him.

EDITOR *Japan Mail*.

Tôkyô, March 27th, 1886.