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J. A. Tyrrell and J. G. Semple
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PREFACE

The subject of parallelism in elliptic non-Euclidean space is one that has hitherto received little attention in works on geometry. In fact, although Clifford's original theory of parallel lines in three-dimensional elliptic space goes back nearly a hundred years, the generalization to higher space, due to Y.-C. Wong, was not devised until comparatively recently. On reading Wong's work (which is predominantly algebraic and mainly confined to geometry over the real field) it occurred to the authors that the subject could more naturally be developed in the wider context of complex projective geometry and the present tract was conceived with this object in mind.

The general plan of the book, together with some points of history and motivation, is the subject of Chapter 1 and need not be anticipated here. As to the style of writing, we have tried to develop the earlier Chapters in a careful and rigorous manner, paying full attention to the details of the arguments; in the later Chapters, however, we have felt free to use the less formal language of the classical geometers and to omit some of the more routine proofs and calculations.

We wish to thank Dr D. Kirby of the University of Southampton for the meticulous care with which he read our page proofs and for his numerous corrections and emendations; and our warm thanks are also due to the officers of the Cambridge University Press for their unfailing courtesy and assistance in the preparation of this volume.

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