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978-1-107-60604-3 - The Earth: Its Shape, Size, Weight and Spin

J. H. Poynting

Frontmatter

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**The Cambridge Manuals of Science and
Literature**

**THE EARTH
ITS SHAPE, SIZE, WEIGHT AND SPIN**

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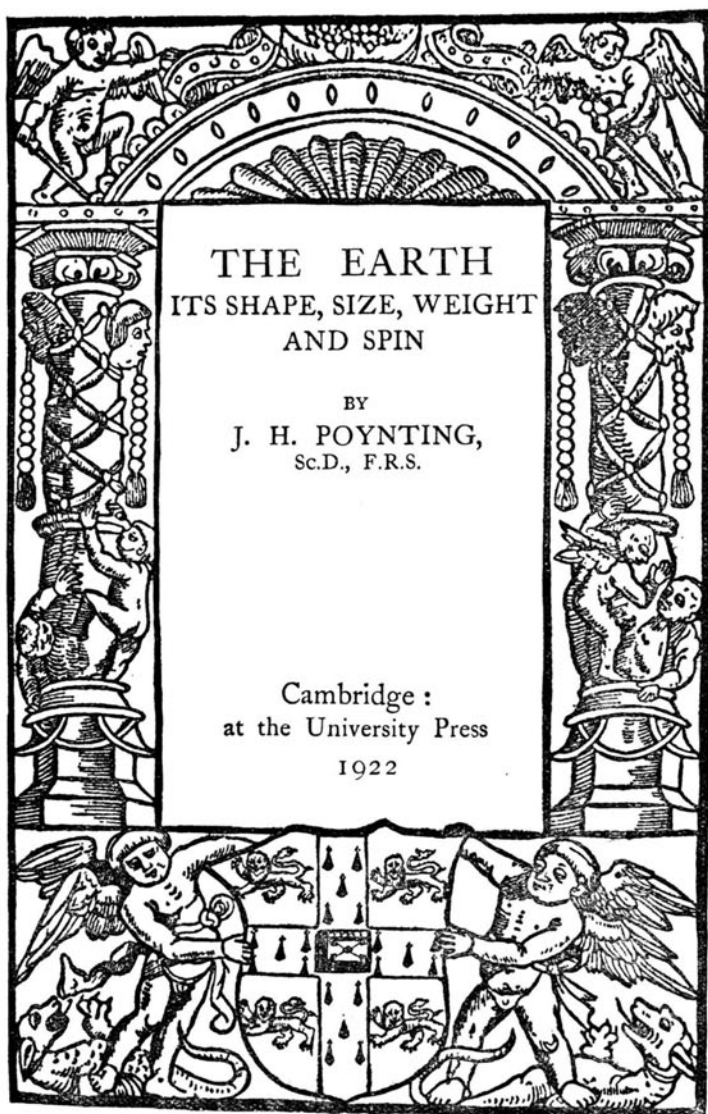
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PREFACE

THE aim of this book is to explain in a general way, without mathematical detail, how the shape and size of the Earth have been determined, how its mass has been measured, and how we know that it rotates, and so uniformly that it is a nearly perfect time-keeper. Some account is given of the tidal action which must gradually be reducing the spin, a subject of which our knowledge is chiefly due to the researches of Sir George Darwin.

Readers who wish to study further the matters dealt with here, will find more detailed treatment under various headings in the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. A bibliography of each subject is there given.

On the Tides, Sir George Darwin's general account should be read in his work on *The Tides and Kindred Phenomena of the Solar System*.

J. H. P.

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