REPORT ON PROGRESS IN NON-EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY.

It marks an epoch in the history of mathematics that at a meeting of a great Association for the advancement of science there should be presented by invitation a Report on non-Euclidean geometry.

Its two creators, Lobachévski, who misnamed it Imaginary Geometry, and Bolyai János, under the nobler name Science Absolute of Space, failed utterly while they lived, to win any appreciative attention for what is to-day justly honored as one of the profoundest advances of all time. The only recognition, the only praise of the achievement of Lobachévski ever printed in his lifetime was by Bolyai Farkas, the father of his brilliant young rival, and appeared in a little book with no author’s name on the title page, and which we have no evidence that Lobachévski ever saw, a little book so rare that my copy is probably the only one on the Western Continent.

When after more than forty years they were rescued from oblivion by Baltzer and Hoüel in 1866, still envious time gave them back only with an aspersion against the genuineness of their originality. A cruel legend tarnished still their fame so long delayed, so splendidly deserved.

Even when their creation had reached the high dignity of being made the subject of courses of lectures for consecutive semesters at the University of Göttingen, yet