

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1898.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEODETIC ASSOCIATION
AT STUTTGART, OCTOBER 3-12,
1898.*

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THE International Geodetic Association is an organization for the measurement of the earth. Conferences are held every few years to consider projects, formulate methods and direct the execution of work by which the aforesaid object may be attained. Although the name as used in English does not necessarily imply the determination of the earth's size and shape, this is, nevertheless, the governing idea, and the Association follows loyally the lines marked out by the society of which it is the legitimate offspring, the German Gradmessung of 60 years ago. Now that the Association is firmly established on a permanent and international basis, it is worth while to seek the origin and trace its interesting course of development. In 1829 the Russian government expressed a desire to connect their triangulation with that of Prussia. Thus stimulated, the German work was given greater expansion, and in 1838 the work of Bessel and Baeyer, 'Gradmessung in Ostpreussen,' appeared. This developed into the 'Kustenvermessung,' and the work was continued under that name. In 1861 Baeyer sounded the keynote of the scientific spirit of the age when he proposed co-

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