

representatives of the interests of science, the Congress counted in its midst as delegates the world-renowned Director of the Cambridge Observatory, Mr. Adams ; the Associate of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, M. Janssen ; Mr. L. M. Rutherford, of New York, of acknowledged merit by his labours in the territory of Astrophysics ; the scientific representative of the U. S. Signal Office, Mr. Cleveland Abbe. Besides as it opportunely happened that many scientific men were in Washington domiciled, or accidentally there for a time, the Congress invited them to express their opinion on the matters under consideration ; the head of the American Nautical Almanac, Mr. S. Newcomb, renowned by his genial and comprehensive labours in the field of astronomy ; the Director of the Coast Survey, Mr. Hilgard ; the celebrated natural philosopher, Sir William Thompson, and the Director of the Carlsruhe Observatory, Dr. Valentiner.

In the whole, 25 countries were represented at the conference. It was resolved that voting would be simply by states, with equal authority without regard to the number of representatives, or the stand-point of national development [*Culturstand*], the extent of territory, or the amount of population of each country. There were many important points of consideration differing in character, which pointed towards this mode of proceeding. Indeed, as it turned out, a procedure essentially different apparently would have led to the same result, as the proceedings, as they are set forth in the Protocol, testify. In all important matters, Great Britain and the United States went hand in hand with Russia, and this accord on the part of the representatives of those countries, which, at least with regard to extent of territory, were the most affected by the questions under discussion, perceptibly exercised great influence on the result of the vote.

As the conference on the 1st October, 1884, met in the Diplomatic Hall of the Department of State, in Washington, they immediately selected as President the Honourable Admiral Rogers, of the American Navy. The prudence, skill, and impartiality with which he presided over the proceedings are sufficiently established in the record of the Protocol. Lieut.-General Strachey, of the English, M. Janssen, of the French, Dr. Cruls, of the Brazilian Legation, were appointed Secretaries.

The conference held eight sittings between October 1st and November 1st ; some of which were prolonged for many hours. After several delegates, among them those of Russia, had made the declaration that they were unable to consider the resolutions of the conference as binding on the countries which they represented, and that they could only pledge themselves to recommend to their respective governments, such resolutions as they might vote for, the determination was then taken as to organization, and the mode of conducting the business of the congress. With regard to the essential