

HOW A WALTHAM WATCH SET ENGLAND'S TIME



GREENWICH OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH, ENGLAND.

Greenwich Observatory is situated six miles from London Bridge, on a hill one hundred and eighty feet high, in the centre of Greenwich Park. It marks the Meridian from which English astronomers make their calculations. The correct time for the whole of England is settled here every day at one o'clock P.M.; a large colored ball descends many feet, when the time is telegraphed to the most important towns throughout the country. A standard clock, with the hours numbered from one to twenty-four, and various standard measures of length are placed outside the entrance, pro bono publico.

26 Ormiston Road, Westcombe Park,
London, S. E., England,
10-2-'97.

American Waltham Watch Co.,
Waltham, Mass., U. S. A.

GENTLEMEN: About three years since, acting on the advice of a friend who had had one of your watches for about eighteen years, I purchased a Lever Waltham Watch. I am happy to say it has turned out a marvel of accuracy, and under the circumstances I feel I am only doing my duty in bringing this fact to your notice. . . . But perhaps its most unique performance, and the one of which I am especially proud, is the fact, that by its aid I was able to detect an error in the fall of the time-ball at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which gives the standard time to the civilized world. It happened as follows: I make a practice of watching the fall of the time-ball each day at one o'clock p. m., whenever the air is clear enough, and one day, to my surprise, I found the ball had dropped some few seconds before I had expected it to. I had such confidence in my watch that I did not believe it was at fault, and felt sure that some mistake had been made at the Observatory. On telling some of my friends of my convictions, I was simply laughed at for my impudence in daring to pit my Waltham watch against the accuracy of the Royal Observatory. However, to set the matter at rest, I wrote to the Astronomer Royal, telling him of my conviction, and asking him if he would let me know whether I was right or wrong. In return I received a courteous reply from the Astronomer Royal, stating that I was quite right, and that on the day named, owing to an accident, the ball was dropped about eighteen seconds too soon. This seems to me such a remarkable proof of the reliability of your watches that I feel justified in bringing it to your notice. If you would care to have the Astronomer Royal's letter as a memento, I should be pleased to hear from you to that effect. Wishing every success and prosperity to your deservedly world-famed Company, I remain,
Yours very sincerely, THOMAS WHEATE.

The Reply from the Astronomer Royal.

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,
London, S. E., 1894, March 10.

Dear Sir:

In answer to your letter of yesterday the Astronomer Royal requests me to inform you that on Thursday last the time-ball was through an accident dropped about eighteen seconds before one o'clock.

Yours truly,

H. P. Hollis.

T. Wheate, Esq.

"The Perfected American Watch," an illustrated book about watches,
will be sent free upon request.

American Waltham Watch Company, Waltham, Massachusetts.