

mankind, and in its daily rotations the passage of the sun at any spot will be the index of Cosmic time.

The resolutions of the International Conference establish a means of reckoning time which promises, in the years to come, to be of the highest advantage to the human family. Cosmic Time, or whatever name may be given to Universal Time applied to civil purposes, is an entirely new feature. It has now obtained recognition by a properly constituted authority, although until recently, I believe, it has remained unconsidered. Astronomers have long had equinoctial time, which is absolute time, dating from an epoch determined by the sun's motion among the stars; beyond this I cannot find any nearer approach to the mention of Universal Time as now understood.

The conclusions of the Conference mark a new era. The civil time of England is adopted as Universal Time. It may be said that Greenwich time is already known on every sea, that it has been carried by British ships wherever British explorers and colonists and merchants have penetrated, but Greenwich time is the local time of Greenwich, and, heretofore, it has always been held as such. Universal time, based on the Prime Meridian of the globe, and recognized by the several civilized nations, is an entirely different conception. As the Time of the world common to every nation, it is held that the term "Cosmic" will better express that meaning than "Greenwich." Cosmic and Greenwich time are identical by accident, but the expressions imply two totally different ideas, and known national sensitiveness suggests the good taste and expediency of distinguishing the two ideas by different terms.

I am induced to add a few words in explanation of the principles of Cosmic time.

Time has been the subject of profound thought by many philosophic minds of the past. They have attempted to define it, and their definitions have been manifold. If we view the earth as a whole, and the conditions of the age in which we live oblige us so to view it, I am unable to see that any one of the recorded definitions gives support to the ancient system of keeping count of time which we follow. Our ordinary usages imply that there is an infinite number of times, and they are based on the principle that time is dependent on local situation. Nothing can be more erroneous and misleading. It is this false principle entering into every detail of daily life which has led each insignificant locality on the circumference of the globe to