

consequence, our facilities for affording the student of any special branch of knowledge an acquaintance with what the rest of the world is doing in it, are much improved. It may also be stated, that arrangements have been made whereby it is expected that a fuller and more regular printed report of our proceedings will be given to our members.

It seems to me that it would be inappropriate not to say a word on this occasion about the results that have flowed from a proposal made by Mr Sandford Fleming in a communication read before the Institute two or three years ago. I refer to the proposal to adopt certain meridians as standards of time—a proposal which is to take practical effect during the present month over a great part of this continent. The members of the Institute, seeing that they have in their corporate capacity twice memorialized the government, and taken other action in this matter, and in their separate capacities have seconded Mr. Fleming whenever they have had opportunity to do so, cannot but feel pleased that so much has been accomplished; and while I give utterance to that feeling of pleasure, I am sure that I am also speaking the mind of the Institute, when I express the hope, that this partial adoption of Mr. Fleming's scheme on this continent, may be but the prelude to its adoption in its entirety throughout the world.

Some years ago I had the honour to communicate to the Institute the general views at which I had then arrived in regard to the very difficult subject of the relations of complexion and climate. Though I cannot pretend that the partial solution which I then offered, was, even as far as it went, entirely satisfactory, I still think that it embodied an element of truth. Since that time, I have gained, if not increased light, at least additional information, and it has occurred to me that a new paper on the subject, written, not so much with the object of advancing any special views which I may hold, as with that of pointing out the nature of the difficulties which crop up when one attempts to elucidate it, and the character of the questions, with the solution of which its elucidation is connected, might prove to be of some popular interest.

This topic belongs to the domain of Anthropology, a science which has lately come into existence. The anthropologist might take for his motto that oft-quoted line of Pope's

“The proper study of mankind is man,”