

The system of Terrestrial time would, it is thought, supply the want. As part of the system it would be necessary to establish an initial meridian to denote the dividing line between each day. It is suggested that the initial meridian be established through or near Behring's Straits, passing from pole to pole through the Pacific Ocean, so as to avoid all Continents and Islands. Every civilized country, indeed, all habitable lands would thus be brought within the limits of the same day, which for convenience might be designated—"The Terrestrial Day." The Terrestrial day would not it is true commence at all places at the same local hour, but it would begin and end everywhere at the same moment in absolute time. The general adoption of the system of Terrestrial Time would enable every human being to reckon by a common day and by a common subdivision of the day. Every steamboat and every locomotive would be worked by the same standard, every telegram would be despatched, practically by the same timekeeper, and all uncertainty and confusion would be obviated.

In this paper it has been my desire to point out the character and causes of the inconveniences and difficulties inseparable from our present mode of reckoning time, which are being developed by the rapid extension of lines of communication over the earth. I trust I have succeeded in showing that it is desirable to have some modifications in our system of chronometry in order to meet the condition of an advanced stage of civilization, and that we should not any longer be compelled to perpetuate old customs and practices which general progress will probably render excessively inconvenient if not intolerable. We have undoubtedly entered upon a remarkable period in the history of the human race. Discoveries and inventions crowd upon each other in an astonishing manner. Lines of telegraph and steam communications are girdling the earth, and all countries are being drawn into one neighbourhood—but when men of all races, in all lands are thus brought face to face, what will they find? They will find a great many nations