

notation commonly used, or in having astronomical and civil time brought together, the former still beginning its day at noon. The French *Annuaire du Bureau des Longitudes* has, however, this year adopted mean civil time, from 0h. to 24h., and astronomers there will have to fall into line. But a still more important change is perhaps being accomplished, as I speak, viz., the adoption in Russia of the Gregorian reform of the calendar, which dates from 1582. Ten days were omitted from the year when first the reform was instituted at Rome, eleven when England adopted it, in 1752, and the Russians will now have to omit thirteen. Reports being as yet contradictory, we are not yet sure. Some say the difficulties in connection with regulating church festivals are insuperable. It seems curious that time reckoning, which is strictly a matter of astronomy, should be made a matter of religion. It is however proposed that on January 1st, 1901 all Christendom shall date its letters on the same day and month. Then, on to Cosmic time, when every clock will be set to the same hour and minute! The greatest feature of the past century has been the general acknowledgment that one law, one common nature, one evolutionary system pervades not only this world but all others, and surely one law as to weights and measures, especially that of time, ought to be observed among men.

And now, in the last year of the century, in the last year of the Society's first decade, with my last words as your President, I think I ought to express the satisfaction we must feel in looking back over our own particular little day. From being peripatetic wanderers, we have become a settled institution, having comfortable quarters under the roof of the Canadian Institute. Our special room is decently furnished. Our library is fast growing into value, our volumes are properly bound, well arranged and catalogued, and I do hope the Society will continue the assiduous care of this department, for though the heavens are our chief books, written in pandemic language, and their suzerainty is ever preferable to that of the printed page, we need many others as commentaries upon them. Our *Transactions* have been regularly issued and have been well received at home and abroad. We are free from debt. Our organization has worked smoothly, our officers have been earnest and faithful, and our future seems as bright as we can reasonably wish. I received my trust from a model President, I surrender it to a capable and respected member. In the hands of Mr. G. E. Lumsden, F.R.A.S., the dignity of the position will not be impaired, and he will repay you for the honour conferred upon him with no less loving service than his predecessors.