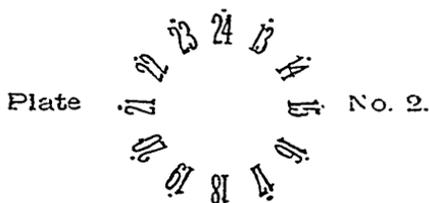


the members of this Society must equally join in the common satisfaction in the measure of success which has been achieved.

Six years back, when the subject was discussed in this Hall, there were probably not a few who viewed the propositions then submitted as merely fanciful theories. Others, who did not refuse to recognize their bearing, entertained the feeling that many grave difficulties presented themselves to interfere with any successful attempt to reform or modify usages so ancient as the computation of time. But the Institute, as a body, was hopeful. The action taken by the Council to extend the field of discussion and awaken the attention of foreign communities, evinced confidence, and we may now ask, was this confidence justified? What are the facts to-day? Twelve months have passed since an important change in the notation of Railway Time was made with general approval throughout the length and breadth of North America; a revolution in the usages of sixty millions of people has been silently effected and with scarcely a trace that it has happened. That proceeding has been followed by events of equal importance. On the 1st of October last a body of accredited Delegates from the different nations, on the invitation of the President of the United States, met in Conference to consider the problem

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“the face of the watch or clock a secondary dial, showing the new afternoon hours in Arabic numerals within the present Roman figures.



“Plate No. 2 shows the secondary dial. It must be of thin material; and it has been found that made simply of paper and secured to its position by any gum which will adhere to an enameled surface, the object is attained without any further alteration of the watch or clock.

“The Committee is aware that these seem trifling matters to bring under the notice of the Convention, but questions of great moment not seldom hinge on small details. It is evident from what has been set forth, that every person in the community may, at the cost of a few cents in each case, adapt his watch to the 24 o'clock system.

“The Committee accordingly repeat their conviction, that with the disappearance of the only practical difficulty at an insignificant cost, there is nothing to prevent the Railway authorities and the community at large adopting the change as soon as they become alive to its advantages.”