

division of the day into day and night by Nature is grounded on an equal duration of the hour, as it continued with the Romans. But the division of the same into equal parts by the passage of the sun through the line of mid-day is sustained by no natural principle which can stand the test of proof. The very name mid-day testifies not to the division of the same into two parts, but only the middle of an un-interrupted whole. It appears to us not entirely improbable that the division of the day into two parts of the like number, specification and duration of hours, has especially found a point of support in the theory that in the infancy of the art of clock-making, the technical means were wanting to the clock-maker to show upon the dial-plate sufficiently and satisfactorily divided one from the other, all the 24 different hours; especially with watches. This supposition is strengthened by the circumstance that in some countries, namely in Italy and Bohemia, even to the latest times, clocks on the towers, of which the larger size permitted all the 24 hours to be shown on their dial plate, had them so marked and with works adapted to the movement. In the present condition of the art the cause for shortening the notation of the hours has entirely passed away, and at the same time the possibility presents itself of getting rid of the inconvenience which was called forth by it. If this end be attained in coming time, the Washington Conference from the impulse which it has so far given to it, has rendered a great service to all mankind.

