

associated in our minds with the hour of 12, but among the Jews noon was the 6th hour, and astronomers have almost invariably recognized it as the 24th hour. For a year back throughout the United States and Canada the agreement between 12 o'clock and precise noon has been at an end. It may be said that, except on four or five meridians, 12 o'clock is nowhere coincident with mean solar noon. This departure from an old usage must tend to unloosen the traditional idea that the mere numbers of the hours have any necessary connection with the position of the sun in the heavens. If this innovation has any effect it must help to pave the way for still farther and more important changes than have yet been introduced. The Meridians by which time is regulated in North America are 5, 6, 7 and 8 hours of longitude west from the Prime Meridian. It will only be necessary to move forward our clocks 5, 6, 7, and 8 hours respectively to bring them all into agreement with the time of the Prime Meridian, which is Cosmic Time, and thus obtain complete uniformity. It cannot, however, be looked for that Cosmic Time will at once be adopted in ordinary affairs. A generation probably will pass away before it will obtain general acceptance. The difficulties to be overcome cannot be ignored, and we may assume that it will only be step by step that the change will be made, the more advanced nations taking the lead. On this continent positive progress has been made, to be succeeded before long, I do not doubt, by another advance in public opinion, and a general acceptance of the principles recently recognized. In the course of years the prejudices engendered by inherited customs will be greatly modified, and the masses will gradually have their minds familiarized with new ideas. It is a significant fact that the principles of the new system should be unanimously recommended by delegates from all civilized nations. I do not doubt that the several peoples they represent will sooner or later understand that one uniform reckoning of time for every purpose throughout the globe is the only rational system, and the one notation which in coming years will properly meet the necessities and requirements of mankind.

In these remarks I have narrated the events which have taken place on both sides of the Atlantic to influence and determine the conclusions which, a few weeks back, the President submitted to the Congress of the United States.

On this occasion I cannot think that I am entirely wrong when I