

1805
Oct 10

Great Sir

As President of the Philosophical Society, I take the Liberty of laying before you a method of ascertaining the Longitude with the same precision that at present obtains in fixing the Latitude, which is simply this - in reflecting upon what happens to all navigators who sail round the world, in one direction they loose a day, in the others they gain one, it occurred to me, that it might be, that this circumstance had something to do with perplexing their calculations, and by following a line around the globe, there are no points further distant from each than 180 degrees, and yet we find they have treated the globe as they would treat a level plain, in carrying the longitude all round, which I believe to be an error and therefore conceive the Idea of stopping, at mid-way and fixing two points distant from each other 180 degrees - for instance I will call Philadelphia my first meridian, and this meridian cuts the Equator at ⁷⁵ 20 west from London, I count 90 degrees on the Equator westward which brings me to the western ocean, and here I fix my western pole, I return, and count 90 degrees eastward, and this brings me to the western part of the continent of Africa, here I fix my Eastern pole, I then draw a line which is to cross the Equator at right angles, on my first meridian, and pass through the center of the ~~the~~ north and south poles - and so divide the Earth into an eastern, and a western hemisphere, the 24 meridians, I reduce to 12, allotting six to each hemisphere - each of these meridians contain 15 degrees and these meridians run parallel

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parallel with the Horizontal Equator which divides the globe into eastern and western hemispheres and in receding from this line toward the eastern or western poles - the latitude decreases in the same ratios as we find the longitude does in approaching the northern or southern poles - a globe constructed upon this plan will give a day of twelve hours - without being involved with the diurnal revolution of the Earth, and the quadrant will determine longitude and latitude equally -

Your Humble servant
Hannah Lowe

Harley near Bristol

Bucks county Pennsylvania, ^{the} October 10 1805