

pending thereon, shall after the 2d of Sept. 1752, conform to the decree of the said general council, and the practice of foreign countries, shall be observed according to the annexed table; and the former table, in all future additions of the book of common prayer, shall be suppressed; but the courts of session and exchequer in Scotland, and all markets, fairs and marts, shall be held upon the same natural days as if this act had not been made, that is, eleven days later, than according to this new computation, notwithstanding that by this new computation, the nominal days are anticipated or brought forward by the space of eleven days, the natural days and times for the opening and closing of commons of pasture and the like, not to be altered by this act, that is, eleven days later than the new supputation. — The natural days and times of payments of rents, annuities, sums of money, delivery of goods, commencement or expiration of leases, and the like, shall not be by this act anticipated or accelerated; and the time of attaining the age of 21 years shall not be altered by this act, or the determination of any apprenticeship or service. \*

Proprietors

\* Julius Cæsar began his year about the hybernal or winter solstice, (the equinoxes and solstices are proper periods in such matters) the Julian or O. S. began 45 years before CHRIS: this stile was reformed by pope Gregory 1582, but was not carried back to the nativity of our Saviour, which in church preciseness ought to have been, but only to the time of the council of Nice, which was held anno dom. 325, by Constantine the great, to examine and condemn the doctrines of Arius. At the time of the council of Nice, the vernal equinox was on the 21st of March, but in strictness and according to the precision of devotionalist observers of days, it should have gone back so far as the nativity or first year of Christ, the vernal equinox was then on the 23d of March: but as the Gregorian stile is at present the general practice of christian European nations, the British legislature in their wonted prudence have acceded thereto, as being a convenient civil, but not a jure divino affair. Instead of being too minutely precise in striking off 13 days, which is the truth of the case in conformity to other European countries, they only struck off 11 days, for the sake of mutual convenience;

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