

The orbit of Venus is more nearly a circle than any of the other planets, and when at its inferior conjunction, approaches the earth more nearly than any other, this will occur on the 28th of February, 1870. When its elongation is about 40° , it appears at its greatest brilliancy, although the illuminated portion of its disc is least, its proximity to the earth more than compensates for this, at such times its brilliancy is such as to render telescopic examination almost impossible, and under the circumstances it is often visible to the naked eye at noon. This may be, under favourable circumstances, seen on the 18th February, and 31st of March, 1870. To assist in finding the planet, its rising, setting, passing the meridian, and distance from the zenith, are added in the order named. 18th January 9h. 8m., a. m., 8h. 25m., p. m., 2h. 47m., p. m., $50^\circ 05'$; 31st March 3h. 58m., a. m., 3h. 06m., p. m., 9h. 32m., a. m., $51^\circ 07'$.

The Satellites of Jupiter are invisible from April 30th, to June 20th the planet being too near the sun. Mercury never moves above 28° from the sun, and therefore never rises or sets above 1h. 50m., before or after the sun, and is seldom seen.

Chronological Eras.

All nations who have made any great advance in civilization have found it useful to adopt some particular year as a chronological basis. The Romans adopted for this purpose the year and day which some historians assigned as the date for the foundation of Rome. That particular date according to our present chronology, was the 21st of April, in the year 754, B. C. The change in the calendar by the first two Cæsars, and which with the alteration afterward rendered necessary by the lapse of centuries, forms to the present day the standard for computing the length and divisions of the year, too late place 47, B. C. The *Olympiads* were a Greek mode of computing time depending on chronological groups, each of which measured respectively four years in length. They began in 776, B. C.; each was a period of four years; and any particular date was denoted by the number of the Olympiad, and the number of the year in it. When the power of Greece sunk to a shadow under the influence of Rome, the mode of reckoning gradually went out of use.

The *Christian Era* which is now adopted all by Christian countries dates from the year in which Christ was born. According to Greek chronology that year was the fourth of the 194th Olympiad; according to Roman, it was the year 753 or 754, if the different dates for beginning the year be rectified. It is remarkable, however, that the Christian era was not introduced as a basis of reckoning till the sixteenth century; and even then its adoption made slow progress.

The *Julian Period* is a measure of time proposed by Joseph Scaliger, consisting of the very long period of 7980 years. The number of years marks the interval after which the sun, moon, and earth will come round to exactly the same positions as at the commencement of the cycle:—To convert any date B. C. into the Julian system, subtract the year B. C. from 4714, and the remainder is the year of the Julian period; to convert any date A. D. add 4713 to the year of the Christian era.

The *Mahommedan Era* dates from the flight of Mahommed from Medina, the 15th of July, 622 A. D. This era is known as the *Hegira* or flight.

In regard to all the having to count so according as a part of of the era. To get has been adopted, by ment of a universal authorities agreed as that event and the bi that, according to cor forty different compu adopted by English v up to 4684 years. T year of the world, designation for the ye be adopted.

Whether clear or weather; a red sky in gray sky in the morn dawn, fair weather. weather, with moderate clouds, wind. A dark indicates fair weather wind, but perhaps more greasy, rolled, tufted prove. A bright yellow wet; and thereby the coming weather may foretell rain; light sc rain, but if alone n crossing in a direction change of wind. After coming change are us of white distant cloud casting of misty vapor more or less oily or w ble sign. Misty cloud and rain coming if the he weather will impr

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