

MORNING AND EVENING PLANET.

VENUS will be the *Evening Star* until May 12, and from thence will be the *Morning Star* until March 2, 1850.

REMARKS ON THE CALENDAR.

The **SUN** naturally regulates the beginnings, durations, and ends of the seasons; and the Calendar is constructed to arrange the smaller portions of the year.

The Calendar divides the year into 12 months, containing 365 days. It is desirable that the same parts of the same seasons should be always denoted by the same days of the same months. This would be the case if the civil year of 365 days were equal to the Astronomical year, but the latter is greater: and if the Calendar should invariably distribute the year into 365 days, each part of the year, (the vernal equinox for instance), would in progress of time happen on every day of the civil year.

Julius Cæsar adopted the mode of correcting the Calendar by making every fourth civil year to consist of 366 days. But this Julian correction itself was found to need correction, as the length of the year became known to greater precision. This correction at the time of Pope Gregory, in 1582, had amounted to 10 days, the vernal equinox falling on the 11th instead of the 21st of March, at which period it fell correctly at the time of the Council of Nice in the year 325. To obviate this inconvenience, Gregory ordered that the day succeeding the 4th of October 1582, instead of being called the 5th should be called the 15th; thus suppressing 10 days. This act reformed the Calendar; in order to correct it in future ages, it was prescribed that the intercalary day of the Julian correction should be omitted at convenient periods.

The adoption of this change, which is called the Gregorian, or new style, did not take place in England till 1752. It was then enacted that the year should commence on the first of January, instead of the 25th March; and that in the year 1752, the days should be numbered as usual till September 2, when the day following should be accounted the 14th of September, thus omitting 11 days.

ECLIPSES IN 1848.

In this Year there will be two Eclipses of the Sun, and two of the Moon.

I. Feb'y. 22.—An Annular Eclipse of the Sun, invisible in British North America, and the United States, but will be seen in Siberia and Russian America.

II. March 8.—A partial Eclipse of the Moon.