P. E. ISLAND CALENDAR.

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3.

The Sun first "crosses the line" about the 20th of March. This is called the vernal equinox and is the commencement of our Anciently, also, it was the beginning of the year. At Spring. this point he enters the sign Aries, and passes on eastward through Taurus and Gemini, completing the latter about the 21st of June. Here he has reached his farthest northern point, which is for this reason called the Summer solstice (from sol, the Sun, and sto to stand); and thence begins to recede southward. Passing on through Cancer, Leo, and Virgo, he comes to the autumnal equi-nox, and again "crosses the line" Sept. 23, at the beginning of On the 22d of December he has reached the Winter sol-Autumn. stic, and thence begins his return northward, completing the whole circle of the Ecliptic at the next vernal equinox, March 20. The

Winter begins	s, 1862,	Dec. 21st,	8 12	a			
Spring "	1863,	March 20th	9 22	8			
Summer "	66	June 21st,	554	a			
Autumn "	66	Sept. 23d,	8 8	m			
Winter "	66	Dec. 22d,	1 58	m			
	D. H.	M.		D.	н.	м.	
Winter Signs	89 1	10 Sun Nor.	of Equator	186	10	46	
Spring Signs	92 20	32 Sun S. of	f Equator	178	19	0	
Summer Signs	$93 \ 14$	14 Differenc	е	7	15	46	
Autumn Signs	89 17	50 Mean Tr	opical Year	365	5	49	
	Winter begins Spring " Summer " Autumn " Winter " Winter Signs Spring Signs Summer Signs Autumn Signs	Winter begins, 1862, Spring " 1863, Summer " " Autumn " " Winter " " Winter Signs 89 1 Spring Signs 92 20 Summer Signs 93 14 Autumn Signs 89 17	Winter begins, 1862, Dec. 21st, Spring "1863, March 20th Summer "45 June 21st, Autumn "45 Sept. 23d, Winter "45 Dec. 22d, D. H. M. Winter Signs 89 1 10 Spring Signs 92 20 32 Summer Signs 93 14 14 Autumn Signs 89 17 50 Mean Tr	Winter begins, 1862, Dec. 21st, 8 12 Spring 1863, March 20th 9 22 Summer "June 21st, 5 54 Autumn "Sept. 23d, 8 8 Winter "Dec. 22d, 1 58 D. H. M. Sun Nor. of Equator Spring Signs 92 20 32 Sun S. of Equator Summer Signs 93 14 14 Difference Autumn Signs 89 17 50 Mean Tropical Year	Winter begins, 1862, Dec. 21st, 8 12 a Spring '' 1863, March 20th 9 22 a Summer '' '' June 21st, 5 54 a Autumn '' '' Sept. 23d, 8 8 m Winter '' '' Dec. 22d, 1 58 m D. H. M. D. H. M. D. Winter Signs 89 1 10 Sun Nor. of Equator 186 Spring Signs 92 20 32 Sun S. of Equator 178 Summer Signs 93 14 14 Difference 7 Autumn Signs 89 17 50 Mean Tropical Year 365	Winter begins, 1862, Dec. 21st, 8 12 a Spring " 1863, March 20th 9 22 a Summer " " June 21st, 5 54 a Autumn " " Sept. 23d, 8 8 m Winter " " Dec. 22d, 1 58 m D. H. M. D. H. M. D. H. Winter Signs 89 1 10 Sun Nor. of Equator 186 10 Spring Signs 92 20 32 Sun S. of Equator 178 19 Summer Signs 93 14 14 Difference 7 15 Autumn Signs 89 17 50 Mean Tropical Year 365 5	Winter begins, 1862, Dec. 21st, 8 12 a Spring " 1863, March 20th 9 22 a Summer " " June 21st, 5 54 a Autumn " " Sept. 23d, 8 8 m Winter " " Dec. 22d, 1 58 m Denter Signs 89 1 10 Sun Nor. of Equator 186 10 46 Spring Signs 92 20 32 Sun S. of Equator 178 19 0 Summer Signs 93 14 14 Difference 7 15 46 Autumn Signs 89 17 50 Mean Tropical Year 365 5 49

It will be observed that the lengths of the seasons are not exactly the same, and that the stay of the Sun north of the Equator is nearly eight days longer than on the south. This arises from the fact that the Earth's orbit is not an exact circle, but an ellipse, or flattened circle, the focus of which is a little one side of the true centre, making the Sun a little nearer the Earth in one part of its orbit than in the opposite. Here its motion is a little faster than at the farthest point, so that one-half the orbit will be completed so much sooner than the other. This nearest distance of the Sun, curiously enough, is in the Winter, consequently the Winter half of the orbit, which is the portion of it south of the Equator, is correspondingly shorter than the Summer half.

It should be remembered that when we speak of the motion of the Sun, we mean its apparent motion. The real motion is in the Earth, and is exactly the reverse of the former. It is more convenient, however, as it is more easily understood, to speak, as we have done, as if the motion pertained to the Sun.

CHRONOLOGICAL CYCLES.

Dominical Letter, D; Golden Number, 2; Epact, 11; Solar Cycle, 24; Roman Indictions, 6; Julian Period, 6576.

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