[COISWORTH] THE NEED OF A "RATIONAL ALMANAC"

We have not the grave difficulties in the path of reform that confronted Julius Casar who had to expand the year 45 B. C. by 80 days amongst the uneducated peoples of Europe. Neither have we to deal with the awkward case which Pope Gregory the Great had to decide in 1582 A. D. when ten days had to be deducted from that year, nor the 11 days which Protestant England foolishly deferred deducting until 1752, when few people could read or write, nor get the 13 days which Russia must from necessity leave out within the next few years.

The proposed almanae neither requires additions to, nor deductions from the regular 365 days year.—On the contrary every day therein would become fixed and regular.

That most vital consideration makes this reform infinitely easier to carry into effect, although the practical advantages that can be derived by the adoption of the "Rational Almanac" are believed by competen authorities to be very much greater in public convenience than those great and wise reforms, which after all simply adjusted the length of the civil year and anchored January 1st to begin on the same solar date.

The practical convenience Europeans derived from Constantine the Great's substitution of the quarter-moon by the seven days week in the year 321 A. D. has probably exceeded that of the combined reforms of Julius Cæsar and Pope Gregory XIIIth. It was the fixity they gave to the year's length and the settled order of dates therein, that gave those reforms pre-eminence.

In the reform now proposed, the object is to fix the date and name for every day permanently and remove all uncertainty by three successive governmental operations well within the powers of the representatives of all countries to accomplish for the good of all, as no selfish interests are involved.

- 1. The governments will be asked to assemble an international conference to decide the best method of reforming the months and locating the "Dies-non." also to determine the date upon which the new almanae shall begin.
- 2. Next each country will in accordance with these decisions pass their own Acts of Parliament to carry the solutions of the conference into effect and regulate their national holidays.
- 3. Finally the almanae makers and printers in their respective countries will under the powers of such Aets print and circulate the new almanaes as we do now, but with permanent week-day and other names attached to the 365 days individually. The Farmers' Almanaes will record the dates for sowing, etc. Law and University Calendars will have fixed term dates; whilst

27