

born in any month after its 28th day would have no more birthdays, but this would be easily arranged, for every day would still have its place which would be readily ascertained. Thus, in our ordinary year the equinoxes occur on or about the 80th and 264th days of the year, and these, according to the proposed system, would be on the 23rd of 3rd month and 11th of 10th month in every year. Usually, however, there would be no necessity for any change, and those who attach importance to anniversaries, usually have leisure for such calculations. (4) Another class of persons will urge as an objection that this plan involves the displacement of Sunday, and while we all regard that day, there will be few, I think, and they chiefly of the uninformed, who will regard the displacement of Sunday by New Year's Day as a very serious matter. It is always claimed by discerning minds, as it was by the Founder of Christianity Himself, that the reason for the institution of the seventh day rest is found in the necessities of man's nature; hence, if these necessities are satisfied as well or better by the new system than by the old, the objection is answered. I have, however, recommended the adoption of the proposed calendar in a year which begins on Saturday, in order that persons who have conscientious objections to the displacement of the week, may enjoy the conveniences of the new calendar for a whole year before any displacement of days occurs, when probably their scruples will have vanished. (5) Akin to the last two points is the claim that it would interfere with the dates of the ecclesiastical festivals. In answer to this objection it may be said that just as the Church has in the past adjusted its calendar independently of the civil register, not even Pope Gregory himself hesitating to change dates in the latter, so will they continue to do so, without any interference with the popular convenience. Indeed, the Hebrew race has done this in Christian lands from time immemorial.

And now I believe all the objections which have occurred to me have been noted. It remains with those interested in such matters—and who is not interested?—to say whether we shall adopt a simple, symmetrical and convenient system, such as is herein proposed, or continue to use a complex, confused and confusing system, which had its origin in a superstitious age, and developed under influences which were innocent, to a large extent, of scientific motives.