

Courteous READER,

MR. CARLUS, having made some sort of Apology, for his request of the 24th May 1770, seems to insist on my performing my promise, by giving him an Answer. I have therefore taken the liberty of this vacant Page, (which I am sensible might have been put to a much better Use) to satisfy his curiosity. And altho' I have been very careful in my Calculation, and spared no pains in pointing out to him the true time of the Anniversary of his birth agreeable to his Request, yet I am much mistaken, if he does not find himself as much in the dark hereafter, as ever he was.

Mr. CARLUS,

YOU tell me you were born on the Eleventh Day of December 1729 old Stile, at nine o'Clock in the Morning, I suppose you mean precisely, but that you are at a loss for the true Anniversary of your Birth according to the New-Stile. You therefore request to know the Day, Hour and Minute of the Day, in December 1770, that you will be 41 Years of Age; this is the Tenor of your Letter.

The Stile, which seems to puzzle you so much, was changed by Act of Parliament, in the 25th Year of His late Majesty's Reign, viz. 1751, all over the Dominions of Great-Britain, and the Year fixed the same as at the NICENE COUNCIL. Yet it is certain that true time is not exactly adjusted thereby, there being an error of almost three whole Days; which happened thro' the Inadvertency of a certain great Astronomer, who was one of the principal Mathematicians in correcting the Stile. But as this Error happened between the Julian reformation and the NICENE COUNCIL, it cannot effect the matter in which you are to be resolved. Observe then Mr. Carlus, that on the 22d Day of December 1770 new-Stile at 8h. 33m. 9s. in the Evening, you were precisely 41 Years of Age according to the true Computation of Time. But you are not to infer from hence, that the true Anniversary of your Birth will constantly recur at the same time of the Day, but will vary every Year, and in some certain Years will extend to the Morning of the Day next following the 22d, and cannot be restored to it's first Agreement, in less than a Cycle of near 6000 Years, which period I am pretty well assured you will not live to see.

And now I imagine, notwithstanding I have answered your Demand, that you will be as much at a loss in future as you have been in any Year past, for the true Anniversary of your Birth, since you must have it to a minute; but that is no fault of mine; you asked for the true time of it's recurring in one Year only, I have given it; and if you should still be curious in this matter, so far as to desire a Rule for performing the Operation in future, you must go to school and study for it as I have done.

Yours &c.

A. LILIUS.