

moons should be counted in the coming year. As there was no *fixed* date in the solar year known to the common people, the populace could not detect when the year was declared one moon wrong, because the system, if loyally followed, varied the moons nearly three-fourths of a month from the solar seasons, because 365.24 days divided by 29.53 per lunation, equals 12.37 moons per year; hence two years being 24.74 moons, indicated Agricultural seasons .74 of a moon, or 22 days *behind* at the end of the second year. To rectify that, 13 moons were required in the third year, which registered the seasons three days too early. Next, the fourth year's seasons were 19 days behind, and so on, like the confusing Easter wanderings we foolishly continue that way.

The Pontiffs abused their high powers when bribed by Roman rulers to extend their periods of lucrative office by declaring thirteen moons when there should have been twelve, to personally gain another month's taxes. That naturally developed the harmful system of public plunder (now called "graft") and led to political patronage thrusting unworthy men to the front, regardless of the serious fact that farmers were thereby misled into sowing seed, etc., too late or too early; with the inevitable result that bad crops caused famine and impoverished the people the farther their sowing moon (then known by its number in the year), was drifted from the season. Thus, their "New Year's Day" varied in solar date, and as the Pontiff was in collusion with the Consul when he directed the heralds to announce the New Year by the Roman Consul publicly hammering the *annual nail* into the Temple of Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom and Science, the people accepted the year's length then regulated in that crude way.

The great object of our calendars and almanacs is to register the beginning of each new year on the same *fixed* date of the solar year and correctly tabulate the 365 days in *fixed* order throughout the seasons, which are daily indicated by the sun's noon elevation. The moon cannot be wisely used to register either the true seasons nor measure months of any *fixed length in days*, which Julius Caesar found were absolutely necessary for good government to help the people and prevent the abuses which had drifted the almanacs eighty days from the true seasons by the year 46 B.C. He realized that the grave public loss and confusion caused by that moon-wandering from the seasons could best be avoided by having *fixed lengths* for each month, *entirely independent of the moon*, and always beginning the year upon *one precise day* of a *fixed* season.

Julius Caesar, therefore, established the basis of our almanacs by his great reform which *fixed* alternate months of thirty-one and thirty days, and began the 1st of January in the year 45 B.C. with the "*first New Moon that shone after the Winter Solstice*." The urgent public need did not permit of delaying that great change until the new moon