

Pay as you go; debt is the worst kind of poverty.

THE YEAR.

The length of the year is strictly expressed by the space of time required for the revolution of the earth round the sun—namely, 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 49 seconds, and 7 tenths of a second, for to such a nicety has this time been ascertained. But for convenience in reckoning, it has been found necessary to make the year terminate with a day instead of a fraction of one, lumping the fractions together so as to make up a day among themselves. About forty-five years before Christ, Julius Caesar, having, by the help of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian philosopher, come to a tolerably clear understanding of the length of the year, decreed that every fourth year should be held to consist of 366 days, for the purpose of absorbing the odd hours. The arrangement he dictated was a rather clumsy one. A day in February, the sixth before the calends of March (sestiles), was to be repeated in that fourth year; and each fourth year was thus to be bissextile. It was as if we were to reckon the 23rd of February twice over. Seeing that, in reality, a day every fourth year is too much by 11 minutes, 10 seconds, and 8 tenths of a second, it inevitably followed that the beginning of the year moved onward ahead of the point at which it was in the days of Caesar; in other words, the natural time fell behind the reckoning. From the time of the Council of Nice, in 325, when the vernal equinox fell exactly on the 21st of March, Pope Gregory found in 1582 that there had been an over-reckoning to the extent of ten days, and now the vernal equinox fell on the 11th of March. To correct the past error, he decreed that the 5th of October that year should be reckoned as the 15th, and to keep the year right in future, the overplus being 10 hours, 47 minutes, and 10 seconds in a century, he ordered that every centennial year that could not be divided by 4 (1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, 2200, &c.) should not be bissextile, as it otherwise would be; thus, in short, dropping the extra day three times every four hundred years. The Gregorian style, as it was called, readily obtained away in Catholic, but not in Protestant countries. It was not adopted in Britain till the year 1752, by which time the discrepancy between the Julian and Gregorian periods amounted to eleven days. An act of Parliament was passed, dictating that the 3rd of September that year should be reckoned the 14th, and that three of every four of the centennial years should, as in Pope Gregory's arrangement, not be bissextile or leap-years. It has consequently arisen—1800 not having been a leap year—that the new and old styles now differ by twelve days, our first of January being equivalent to the 13th, old style. In Russia alone, of all Christian countries, is the old style still retained; wherefore it becomes necessary for one writing in that country to any foreign correspondent, to set down his date thus: 12th March, or 24th September; or, it may be, 26th December, 1850, or 8th January, 1851.

Eclipses.

In the year 1868 there will be two Eclipses of the Sun, and a Transit of Mercury over the Sun's disc.

I.—An annular eclipse of the Sun, February 22-23, 1868, invisible in Canada.

II.—A total eclipse of the Sun, August 17, 1868, invisible in Canada.

A transit of Mercury over the Sun's disc, November 4, 1868.

As viewed from the centre of the earth:

The external contact at ingress occurs November 4.

Least distance of centres 12' 15".....19h. 13m. 51s.....Greenwich mean time.

External contact at egress.....21h. 2m. 57s.

At the times of ingress and egress respectively, the Sun will be in the zenith at the places whose positions are,

Longitude, 84° 46' } East of Greenwich. Latitude } 11° 55' N.
40° 12' } 15° 55' S.

Both the ingress and the egress will occur between midnight and sunrise on the morning of November 5, and will consequently be invisible in Canada.

Chronological Cycles.

Golden Number.....	7	Dominical Letters.....	M D
EPOCH.....	6	Roman Indiction.....	11
Solar Cycle.....	1	Julian Period.....	6581

EPOCHS.

The year 5209 of the Jewish Era begins September 17.....	1868	The 32nd of Queen Victoria's Reign begins June 20.....	1868
The year 1268 of the Mahometan Era begins April 24.....	1868	The 33rd of the Indep. of the U. S. begins July 4.....	1868

Fixed and Movable Festivals and Anniversaries.

Ash Wednesday.....	Feb. 26	Birth of Queen Victoria.....	May 24
St. David.....	March 1	Whituesday.....	May 31
St. Patrick.....	Mar. 17	Midsummer Day.....	June 24
Lady Day.....	Mar. 25	Michaelmas Day.....	Sept. 29
EASTER SUNDAY.....	April 12	Birth of Prince of Wales.....	Nov. 9
St. George.....	April 23	St. Andrew.....	Nov. 30
Holy Thursday.....	May 1	Christmas.....	Dec. 25

A little neglect may breed great mischief.

Knowledge of our duties is the most useful part of philosophy.

LEGACY: Royal Festival Ballroom prevents consumption.

A man sometimes takes a hundred steps for neglecting to take one in time.

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