close of the year. Februarius remained the last month of the year until 452 B.C., when it was changed to its present position by the Decemviri. The year in Numa's calendar at first consisted of 12 months of 29 and 30 days alternately, corresponding nearly with 12 lunations, but the year thus constituted contained 354 days, and as even numbers were considered unpropitious, another day was added to make the number A further change was made in the same reign by introducing an odd. extra month of 22 and 23 days alternately, into every second year. This 13th month was intercalated between the 23rd and 24th of Februarius, the last month of the year. This change made the year approximately solar, as it now averaged 3664 days. A little later, when advancing knowledge proved such a year to be too long, the intercalary month was omittee in every 22th year, after which the average civil year corresperced cry nearly with the solar. This clumsy system was thrown into confusion in the succeeding centuries by the intrigues of priests and politicians, and excepting the enange in the position of Februarins, en otod by the Decemviri, ti ero appears to have been no serious reforming moment until the very last days of the Republic. But the corruptions of the calendar could not escape the eagle eye of the great Julian reformer. Calling to his aid the astronomer Sosigenes, he proceeded first to correct the errors of the past, and then to provide as far as possible against their recurrence. The former of these tasks required heroic treatment. So great had been the departure from Numa's methods, that it was necessary, in order to restore the vernal equinox to its position as fixed by Numa, to add two months to the year 707, A.U.C., which was the 47th before the Christian era. The year thus lengthened contained 15 months, or 455 days, and is known as "the st year of confusion." The average year was thenceforth to be maintained at 3651 days by giving the odd months, i.e., the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th, 31 days each, and the others, excepting Februarius, 30 each. Februarius was to contain 29 days, excepting every 4th year, when it had 30 days. The extra day was inserted by repeating the sextocalendas or 25th day of Februarius, which thus became a bissextile month and made the year bissextile. The first interference with the Julian calendar occurred under the first Emperor Augustus. Quintilis had been named Julius after the great Triumvir, Sextilis was, therefore, changed to'Augustus in honour of his colleague and successor. But Julius being seventh and Augustus eighth, the month of Julius had one day

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