

A

CATECHISM

OF

CHRONOLOGY,

BEING AN

EASY INTRODUCTION

TO

THE STUDY OF HISTORY;

FOR

THE USE OF CHILDREN.

TENTH EDITION.

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CHRONOLOGY.



*Chronology recording the progress
of Time.*

A
CATECHISM
OF
CHRONOLOGY.

CHAPTER. I.

Definitions.

Question. WHAT is Chronology ?

Answer. The art of measuring time.

Q. What is time ?

A. Limited duration.

Q. When did time begin ?

A. At the creation of the world.

Q. Whence is the word Chronology derived ?

A. From two Greek words, which signify time and description.

Q. How is time divided ?

A. Into two divisions, a smaller and a greater.

Q. What is the smaller division?

A. Years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes, and seconds.

Q. What is the larger division?

A. Epochs, centuries, lustriums, olympiads, indictions, and cycles, which are measured by the smaller division.

CHAP. II.

Of the smaller Division of Time.

Q. Repeat the table of the smaller division of time.

A. 60 seconds make 1 minute

60 minutes make 1 hour

24 hours make 1 day

7 days make 1 week

4 weeks make 1 lunar month

12 lunar months make 1 year

and 1 day makes 1 year

12 calendar months make 1 year

52 weeks & 1 day make 1 year

365 days, 5 ho, 48 min. make 1 year

57 sec. 1 year.

Q. What is meant by the lunar month?

A. The lunar month is the time the moon takes to revolve round the earth, which she performs in 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, and eight seconds; hence we call a month of four weeks, a lunar month.

Q. What is meant by the calendar month?

A. Calendar, or Kalendar, has the same meaning as the word Almanack, being a register of the year, and divides the year into 12 parts or months, in lieu of 13; hence they are called calendar or almanack months.

Q. How many days does each calendar month contain?

A. Thirty days hath September,
April, June, and November,
February hath twenty-eight alone,
And all the rest have thirty-one;
But leap year coming once in four,
Gives February one day more.

CHAP. III.

Of the Year.

Q. Which is the most complete period of time?

A. The year: being the time in which all the seasons return in succession, and begin anew.

Q. When does our year begin?

A. On the first of January, called New-year's day.

Q. How is the year divided?

A. Into natural and civil.

Q. What is a natural year?

A. A natural year is that space of time wherein the earth finishes its course round the sun, returning to the same point from which it departed, consisting of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 57 seconds.

Q. What is a civil year?

A. A civil year is that which each nation or government has appointed for common use, being made to consist of a certain

number of whole days, without any odd hours or minutes, in order to render the computation of time more easy.

Q. How is the civil year distinguished?

A. Into common, and bissextile, or leap-year.

Q. What number of days does the common year contain?

A. 365 days.

Q. How many days does the bissextile year, or leap-year, contain?

A. 366 days having every fourth year a day added to the month of February.

Q. Whence is the word bissextile derived?

A. From the two Latin words, *bis*, twofold; and *sextilis*, belonging to the sixth.

Q. Why is every fourth year called bissextile?

A. Because the Romans used to reckon the 24th day of February twice over, which was the 6th day of the calends of March.

Q. What is the meaning of the word calends among the Romans?

A. The first day of every month; and as the Romans reckoned backward from the first of March, the sixth day fell on the 24th of February.

Q. Why do you call it leap-year, instead of bissextile?

A. Because, in the common years, any fixed day of the month changes successively the day of the week; but, in the bissextile year, it skips or leaps over one day.

Q. Give me an example.

A. For instance; supposing the first of June; in a common year, to fall on Monday, if the next year is a common year, it will fall on Tuesday; but, if it should be leap-year, the adding of a day will cause it to skip or leap over Tuesday, and fall on Wednesday.

Q. How is it known, when any given year is or is not leap year?

A. It is easily known by dividing the given year by four, and if nothing remain it is leap-year; but, if 1, 2, or 3, remain, it

shews the number of years after leap-year thus,

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overline{)1280} \\ 455 \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{r} 4 \overline{)1821} \\ 455,1 \end{array}$$

which shews that the year 1820 is leap-year, and that 1821 is one year after leap-year.

CHAP. IV.

Of the different Forms of Civil Years, as used by different Nations, and of the Reformation of the Calendar.

Q. You said, in the last chapter, that a civil year consists of nearly 366 days: has this been the admeasurement of the year used by all people from the creation of the world to the present day?

A. No: There have been, and still are, various forms of civil years, as measured by different nations, of which I shall particularly take notice.

Q. What is the first year you have to observe?

A. The ancient Roman year of Romulus, * which consisted of ten months only, viz:—

Martius	containing	31 days
Aprilis		30
Maius		31
Junius		30
Quintilis		31
Sextilis		30
September		30
October		31
November		30
December		30

 Making in all 304 days.

Thus there is a material difference in the length of the ancient Roman year and that of ours, supposing ours to be correct.

Q. Was there no variation in the seasons of the Romans?

A. Yes; their seasons were always varying, December sometimes coming in Autumn, at other times in Spring, &c.

* Romulus, the first king of Rome.

Q. Who discovered this error, and undertook to remedy the evil?

A. The Roman emperor Numa, who added two months more, Januarius and Februarius, making the year to consist of twelve months in lieu of ten, which are as follow :

Januarius	containing	29 days
Februarius		28
Martius		31
Aprilis		29
Maius		31
Junius		29
Quintilis		31
Sextilis		29
September		31
October		29
November		29
December		29

Making in all 355 days.

Q. You say, that our year consists of nearly 366 days, and that of the Roman, in the time of Numa, 355?

A. Yes; consequently, there is still a difference of nearly eleven days.

Q. Who was the next person who undertook to make a further reformation in the calendar?

A. Julius Cæsar.

Q. Who was Julius Cæsar?

A. That Roman emperor who first invaded Britain.

CHAP. V.

Of the Reformation of the Calendar (continued.)

Q. WHEN Julius Cæsar succeeded to the empire of Rome, in what state did he find the Roman Calendar?

A. Very erroneous; and months had considerably receded from their proper seasons, December coming in September, and September in June.

Q. What did Julius Cæsar do to correct this error?

A. In order to bring the seasons forward, he formed a year of fifteen months, or of

445 days, making the new year to begin correctly.

Q. What was the year 46, before Christ, (being the time of the reformation by Julius,) called?

A. The year of confusion.

Q. Why?

A. On account of its length and object.

Q. Did Julius Cæsar make any other reformation besides the correction of the seasons?

A. Yes: from this period, namely, January 1, 45 years before Christ, he caused the civil year and months to be regulated by the course of the sun; and, once in every four years, a day to be added to the month of February, besides adding eleven days to the different months.

Q. What was the state of the Roman calendar after its correction by Julius Cæsar?

A. Some of the months were increased by several days, as will be seen in the following table, by a reference to that of Numa. —

January	31 days
February	28
March	31
April	30
May	31
June	30
July	31
August	31
September	30
October	31
November	30
December	31

—
Making in all 365 days.

Hence this is called the Julian year, from Julius Cæsar.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Reformation of the Julian Calendar by Pope Gregory the XIIIth.

Q. In what way was the Julian year incorrect, so as to want a further reformation?

A. The Julian year, as before observed,

consists of 365 days, 6 hours, which exceeds the true solar year by eleven minutes, and this excess, in 131 years, amounts to a whole day; therefore, in the course of time, the seasons will vary, as was found to be the case.

Q. When, and by whom, was this error first discovered?

A. It was first discovered by our own countrymen, Bede and Bacon, but not remedied till the year of our Lord 1582, by Pope Gregory the XIIIth.

Q. In what did Pope Gregory make the discovery?

A. The council of Nicæa*, in the year of Christ 325, appointed the celebration of Easter to be always on the first Sunday after the full moon that came next after the vernal equinox, which was then on the 21st of March; but in the year of our Lord 1582, it was observed to Pope Gregory, by

* Nicæa, a city opposite Constantinople, the metropolis of ancient Bithynia, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorusses. Many compilers of historical facts, and other writers, confounded this city with Nice, the capital of a province in the north of Italy.

Lulius, a Veronese, that the eleven minutes which were over in each Julian year, had thrown the equinoxes ten days more backward than they were at the time of the said council, so that the vernal equinox was then on the 11th of March.

Q. What did this error occasion?

A. Great irregularity with respect to the time of celebrating Easter, and consequently all other moveable feasts.

Q. How did Pope Gregory correct this error?

A. By suppressing ten days in the month of October, 1582, that so the equinox might be reduced to the 21st of March; and in order that this variation might not happen again, he ordained that a day in every three centuries out of four should be omitted, so that every hundredth year, except the fourth, is to be only a common year of 365 days, in lieu of being a bissextile.

Q. In what countries did this reformation take place and when?

A. All those countries under the papal influence, on the 4th of October, 1582.

Q. When did the Gregorian reformation take place in England?

A. Not till the year 1752, when the 3d of September was reckoned the 14th, the surplus minutes having amounted to eleven days.

Q. By what other names are the Julian and Georgian calendars known?

A. The Julian calendar is generally called the Old Style, and the Georgian the New Style.

Q. By whom is the New Style generally adopted?

A. By every nation in Europe, except Russia.

CHAP. VII.

Of the Jewish Year.

Q. How many months does the Jewish year consist of?

A. Twelve.

Q. What are their names?

A. Their names are as follow, with their number of days annexed to each, viz:—

Nisan or Abib	30 days.
Jiar or Zius	29
Siban or Sivan	30
Thamus or Tamus	29
Ab	30
Elul	29
Tisri or Ethanim	30
Marchesvan or Bul	29
Chisleu	30
Tebeth	29
Shebat or Schebeth	30
Adar	29

Making in all 354 days.

This is made to agree with the solar year, by adding eleven, and sometimes twelve, days.

CHAP. VIII.

Of Months

Q. WHAT is the principal division of the year ?

A. Into months; the names of which I before repeated.

Q. Whence is the word January derived?

A. From *Janus*, a heathen god among the Romans, whom they represented with two faces, one looking towards the new year, and the other towards the old*.

Q. Whence is the word February derived?

A. From the Latin word *Februus*, the name of a feast kept by the Romans in honour of the dead, for those who had made themselves conspicuous when alive.

Q. Why is the third month of the year called March?

A. It was so called from *Romulus*, the first king of the Romans, who named it after his supposed father, *Mars*, and appointed it the first month of the year.

Q. How do the ancient painters represent March?

A. March is drawn with a fierce aspect, and a helmet on his head, being emblematic

* See the particulars of this deity in *Pincock's Catechism of Mythology*.

of war, as relating to Mars, who was the god of war among the Romans.

Q. Whence does April derive its name?

A. From the Latin word *Aprilis*, which is derived from *aperio*, to open, because the buds begin to open this month.

Q. How do the painters represent April?

A. As a young man in green, with a garland of myrtle and hawthorn buds; in one hand primroses and violets, and in the other hand the sign *Taurus*, being emblems of spring.

Q. What is *Taurus*?

A. The Latin word for bull, the second sign of the Zodiac,* which the sun enters in April.

Q. Whence does the fifth month receive its name?

A. From *Maius*, so called by Romulus, in respect to the senators and nobles of the city of Rome, who were named *majores*; though others say it was so called from

* See the Catechism of Astronomy.

Maia (a heathen goddess), the mother of Mercury, to whom they offered sacrifices on that day.

Q. How do the painters usually represent May?

A. May is usually drawn with a sweet and amiable countenance, clad in a robe of white and green, embroidered with daffodils, hawthorns, and blue-bottles, as emblems of the season.

Q. Why is the sixth month called June?

A. From the Latin word *Junius*, so called by Romulus in honour of the Roman youth who served him in war.

Q. Whence is the seventh month called July?

A. From the Latin word *Julius*, so called by the Romans in honour of Julius Cæsar, which, before his time, was named *Quintilis*, being the fifth month of the year in the old Roman calendar.

Q. Whence does August receive its name?

A. In honour of *Augustus* Cæsar, on account of his great exploits; having thrice

triumphed in Rome, subdued Egypt to the Roman empire, and made an end of the civil wars, and this being the month in which he was made consul.

Q. How do the painters represent August?

A. Under the figure of a young man, with a fair countenance, crowned with a garland of wheat, a basket of fruit under his arm, a sickle in his hand, and bearing a victim, as emblems of autumn.

Q. Why is the ninth month called September?

A. It is so called from the Latin word *Septimus*, the seventh month, reckoning from March, which was the first month in the ancient Roman calendar.

Q. How do the painters represent this month?

A. September is drawn with a merry and cheerful countenance, in a purple robe, as emblems of the richness of the season.

Q. Why is the tenth month called October?

A. It is so called from the Latin word

Octonus, being the eighth month of the year in Romulus's calendar; but it is the tenth in that of Numa, Julius Cæsar, &c.

Q. How do the painters represent October?

A. October is drawn in a garment of yellow and carnation; upon his head a garland of oak-leaves; in his right hand the sign *Scorpio*; in his left a basket of services, as emblems of the season.

Q. What is the sign *Scorpio*?

A. One of the twelve signs of the zodiac, answering to October, being the sign in which the sun appears during this month.

Q. Whence is the eleventh month called November?

A. From the Latin word *Novem*, the ninth month in Romulus's calendar.

Q. How do the painters represent November?

A. November is drawn in a garment of changeable green, and black on his head.

Q. Why is the twelfth and last month called December?

A. From the Latin word *Decem*, ten,

being assigned by Romulus as the tenth month in the year.

CHAP. IX.

Of Weeks.

Q. WHENCE are derived the names of the seven days of the week?

A. From certain Saxon objects of worship.

Q. Who were the Saxons?

A. The conquerors of the ancient Britons, who came over from Germany, and resided in England many years.

Q. Which is the first day of the week?

A. Sunday.

Q. Why is it so called?

A. Because the Saxons and ancient Britons worshipped the Sun on this day, and gave it the name of Sun's daeg, (or day,) whence we call it Sunday.

Q. What is the second day of the week?

A. Monday.

Q. Why is it called Monday?

A. Because the Saxons used to worship the moon on this day, and gave it the name of Moon's day whence we call it Monday.

Q. What is the third day of the week?

A. Tuesday.

Q. Why is it called Tuesday?

A. From Tuesco, a Saxon idol, whom the Saxons supposed to have been their first father and ruler.

Q. Which is the fourth day of the week?

A. Wednesday.

Q. Why is it called Wednesday?

A. From the Saxon idol Wodin, their god of war; hence the Saxons called it Wodin's day.

Q. Which is the fifth day of the week?

A. Thursday.

Q. Why is it called Thursday?

A. From Thor, the Saxon god of winds and weather.

Q. What is the sixth day of the week?

A. Friday.

Q. Why is it called Friday?

A. From Friga, the Saxon goddess of love, peace, and plenty.

Q. Which is the seventh and last day of the week?

A. Saturday.

Q. Why is it called Saturday.

A. From Seater, the Saxon god of freedom.

Q. Repeat the Saxon names of the seven days of the week.

A. Sun's-daeg, Moon's-daeg, Tusco's-daeg, Wodin's-daeg, Thor's-daeg, Friga's-daeg, Seater's-daeg.

Q. Who are the Heathens, or Pagans?

A. Those people who worship false gods, and are not acquainted with the doctrines of the Old and New Testament, as were the Saxons and ancient Britons.

CHAP. X.

Of the Epoch.

Q. WHAT is an Epoch?

A. Any fixed point or period of time from which historians date events; as the creation of the world, the birth of Christ, &c.

Q. From what epoch do we reckon?

A. From the birth of Christ, called the Christian epoch.

Q. How many years have elapsed since the Christian epoch, or the birth of our Saviour?

A. The present date whatever it may be.

Q. How many years is it since the epoch of the creation?

A. 4004 years added to the present date.

Q. Is it not also called an era?

A. An era, properly so called, is a portion of time from one remarkable event to another; thus, the Christian era is the number of years since the birth of Christ.

CHAP. XI.

Of the Century, Lustrum, and Olympiad.

Q. WHAT is a century or age?

A. One hundred years.

Q. What is a lustrum?

A. The space of five years, used chiefly by the Romans.

Q. What is an olympiad?

A. The space of four years, by which the ancient Greeks reckoned their time?

Q. Whence did it take its name?

A. From the Olympic games, which were celebrated at the beginning of every fifth year, near Olympia, a city of Peloponnesus, in Greece.

Q. When began the first Olympiad?

A. 776 years before Christ.

CHAP. XII.

Of the Cycle of the Roman Indiction.

Q. WHAT is the meaning of the word Cycle?

A. It signifies a ring or circle.

Q. What is an indiction?

A. A revolution of fifteen years, which, when expired, begins anew.

Q. When was it first begun?

A. In the year 313, in commemoration of the great victory gained by the Roman emperor Constantine over Mezentius.

Q. Who was Mezentius?

A. The king of the Cæreans, a people of Tuscany, in the north of Italy.

Q. Is an indiction used for any other purpose besides celebrating the above-mentioned victory?

A. Yes; it is also used by the Romans to indicate the time of certain payments made by the people to the government, once in 15 years.

CHAP. XIII.

Of the Cycles of the Sun and Moon.

Q. WHAT is a Cycle?

A. A certain period of time, in which the same revolution begins again, as those of the sun and moon.

Q. What is meant by a "*Cycle of the sun*?"

A. The cycle of the sun is a revolution of 28 years, which, being passed, the days of the month return again to the same days of the week; that is, if a "*cycle of the sun*" begin January 1, 1812, on Wednesday it will complete itself December 31, 1839

on Tuesday; and begin again January 1, 1840, on Wednesday, as before.

Q. What is a "*Cycle of the moon?*"

A. A period of 19 years, after which time the new and full moons return on the same days of the months as before, save only one hour and 28 minutes sooner.

Q. Give me an example.

A. A new moon for March, 1810, was on the 5th day, so it will be on March, 1829, having 19 years intervening.

Q. What is the use of these cycles?

A. To shew on what day Easter will fall for any number of years to come.

CHAP. XIV.

Of the Cycles, (continued.)

Q. WHAT is the epoch of the "cycle of the sun," or the period when the "cycle of the sun" is calculated from?

A. Nine years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. Supposing any year be given, what

is the rule for finding the "cycle of the sun?"

A. Add 9 to the given year, and divide the sun by 28, the number of years in a cycle, and the quotient will be the answer.

Q. Supposing the present date to be 1811, what is the "cycle of the sun?"

A. First, 9, added to 1811, make 1820 which, divided by 28, will go 65 times, and nothing over, consequently 65 is the answer.

Q. What year of the "cycle of the sun" is 1813?

A. According to rule, 9 added to 1813, make 1822, which, divided by 28, will go 65 times and 2 over, therefore the year of the cycle is 2, which is the answer.

Q. What is the difference in finding the "cycle of the sun," and in finding the year of the "sun's cycle?"

A. The first is finding how many cycles of the sun have elapsed since its epoch, and the last is the finding how many years have elapsed of the present cycle.

CHAP. XV.

Of the Dominical, or Sunday Letter

Q. WHAT is the use of the dominical letter?

A. The dominical letter is used to point out in the almanacks, or calendars, the Sundays throughout the year.

Q. Whence is the word *dominical* derived?

A. From the Latin word *Dominus*, Lord, and is so called because it is used to point out the Lord's-day or Sunday.

Q. How many dominical letters are there?

A. Seven : A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

Q. Why are there seven?

A. Because there are seven days in a week, and these letters are made to represent these days, so that if A stands for the 1st of January, B will stand for the 2nd, C for the 3d, D for the 4th, &c. to G, which represents the seventh, or Lord's-day, and is therefore called the dominical letter.

Q. Is the letter G always the dominical letter?

A. No: the dominical letter is different every year.

Q. Why?

A. Because the common year consists of 365 days; that is, 52 weeks and one day over; therefore it is plain, that the year must begin and end on the same day of the week, and the next year will begin on the day following.

Q. What does this occasion?

A. It occasions the first Sunday in January to fall every year a day sooner than it did the year before, and consequently to be denoted by a different letter.

CHAP. XVI.

Rules for finding the Dominical Letter for any given Year, from 1800 to 1900.

RULE 1.—Add one-fourth part of the given year, omitting fractions, to the year

itself, then divide the sum by 7, and, if nothing remain, A is the dominical, or Sunday letter; if 1 remain, it points to G, if 2 to F, &c. as in the following table;—

B	C	D	E	F	G	A
6	5	4	3	2	1	0

Q. What is the dominical or Sunday letter for 1811?

A. According to rule

4)1811 divided by 4

452 fraction $\frac{3}{4}$ omitted

7)2253 sum

323 and 2 over;

therefore the letter F, which is over the figure 2 in the table, is the dominical, or Sunday letter.

RULE 2.—If the year be leap-year, the letter found will be the intercalated day exclusive; that is beginning with March 1, to the end of the year: and the letter preceding will be the dominical letter to February 29, inclusive.

Q. What is the dominical letter for 1812?

A. According to rule

4)1812 divided by 4

453

7)2265 the sum to be divided by 7

323 and 4 over ;

consequently, as D is over the figure 4 in the table, D is the dominical letter for the year after Feb. 29, and the preceding letter E for the beginning of the year to February 29 inclusive.

CHAP. XVII.

Of the Cycle of the Moon and of the Golden Number.

Q. WHAT is the epoch of the cycle of the moon, or the date whence it is calculated ?

A. One year before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. How many years are there in the cycle of the moon ?

A. Nineteen.

Q. What is the rule for finding the year of the cycle of the moon for any given year?

A. Add 1 to the given year, and divide the sum by 19, and the remainder, after the division, is the number sought; if there be no remainder, the moon is in the nineteenth year of her cycle.

Q. What is called the golden number?

A. To find the year of the lunar cycle is to find the golden number; therefore, the remainder, after the division of 19, as in the last rule, is the golden number; or if nothing remain, 19 is the golden number.

Q. Why are these numbers called golden numbers?

A. Because, in the ancient calendars, they were written in letters of gold, on account of their excellent use, and as an indication of the value in which they were held.

Q. Where is the golden number made use of, and for what purpose?

A. The golden number is made use of in the Almanack, or Calendar, to shew the changes of the moon, and thereby to deter-

mine the time of Easter, and other moveable feasts.

Q. What is the golden number of the year 1811?

A. According to rule, 1 added to 1820, make 1821, which, divided by 19, will go 95 times and 16 over; therefore the golden number is 16.

CHAP. XVIII.

Of the Epacts.

Q. What is an epact?

A. Epact signifies a supplement, being the number of days added to the lunar year, to make it equal to the solar year, by which the age of the moon may be found any day in the year.

Q. What is the lunar epact, or supplement?

A. The solar year has 365 days and almost 6 hours, and the lunar year 354 days and upwards of 8 hours, the difference is

the epact, which, being so near 11 days, the epact is called eleven.

Q. Are 11 days the epact for every year?

A. It is the relative difference or epact between the lunar and solar year; but a different year, a different epact, which depends on the number of days from the last new moon of the old year, to the first of January.

Q. In what manner is the epact different every year?

A. The first year of the cycle of the moon begins with the solar year, and expires 11 days before it; consequently the second year, the lunar year has begun 11 days before the solar, and at the end of the second year it will have gained 11 more, making 22; and so on for the third year.

Q. What is the rule for finding the epact for any given year?

A. Subtract one from the golden number, and multiply the remainder by 11, then divide the product by 30, and the remainder is the epact.

Q. What is the epact for the year 1821?

A. The golden number for the year 1821 is 17, from which take 1; this last number 16, being multiplied by 11, makes 176, and 176, divided by 30, will go five times, and 26 remain, which is the epact required.

CHAP. XIX.

How to find the Moon's Age at any given Day.

Q. WHAT is the rule for finding the moon's age?

A. Add together the epact, the day of the month, and the number, corresponding with the month as follows:—Jan. 0, Feb. 2, March 0*, April 2, May 3, June 4, July 5, Aug. 6, Sept. 8, Oct. 8, Nov. 8, Dec. 10, and the sum of these three, if under 30, is the moon's age; if above 30, take 30 from it, and the remainder is her age.

Q. What was the moon's age Dec. 25th, 1811?

* Except in leap year, then 1 is to be added for March.

A. According to rule,

6 the epact for 1811

25 the day of the month

10 the number for December

—
41 from which take

30

—
Remain 11 days, the age of the moon
Dec. 25, 1811.

Q. What was the age of the moon April 18, 1812?

A. 28 the epact for 1813

18 the day of the month

2 the number for April

—
48

30

—
18 the day of the moon's age,
which is Easter-day.

N. B. Any of the foregoing calculations may be varied by way of exercises, at the will of the tutor.

CHAP. XX.

An explanation of the Abbreviations which relate to the several Epochs, as used in Chronology (to be committed to Memory.)

Q. WHAT is the meaning of the abbreviation A. M.

A. A. M. is an abbreviation of the Latin words *Anno Mundi*, in the year of the world.

Q. What is the meaning of the abbreviation A. D.?

A. The letters A. D. signify *Anno Domini*, in the year of our Lord.

Q. What mean A. C.?

A. *Ante Christum*, before Christ.

Q. What do the letters B. C. signify?

A. The same as A. C. before Christ.

Q. What mean A. Æ. C.?

A. *Anno Æræ Christianæ*, in the year of the Christian æra.

CHAP. XXI.

A Chronological Account of Memorable Events from the Creation to the Deluge.

Q. WHAT is the first memorable event that ever happened?

A. The creation of the world.

Q. In what space of time was the world created?

A. In six days.

Q. What is the second memorable event?

A. The creation of Adam and Eve.

Q. How many years did this happen before the deluge?

A. 1656 years.

Q. Who was the first-born of woman?

A. Cain.

Q. In what year of the world was Cain born?

A. In the second year

Q. Who was the second son of Adam and Eve?

A. Abel.

Q. What dreadful event befel Abel?

A. He was murdered by his brother Cain.

Q. In what year of the world?

A. In the year 129.

Q. How many years did this happen before the birth of our Saviour?

A. 3875 years.

Q. Who was Adam and Eve's third son?

A. Seth.

Q. Was Seth born before the death of Abel?

A. No: Seth was born in the following year.

Q. Who was the next most celebrated character mentioned before the flood?

A. Enoch.

Q. Who was Enoch?

A. The son of Cain.

Q. What was his character?

A. A most holy and righteous person.

Q. What was the result of his piety?

A. He was translated, or taken up to heaven.

Q. In what year of his age?

A. The thirty-sixth.

Q. Who was the next person of great notoriety?

A. Methuselah, the longest liver of all men, who died at the advanced age of 969 years.

Q. Who was the next most celebrated person?

A. Noah.

Q. In what year of the world was he born?

A. In the 1056th year.

Q. What memorable event happened in the year of Methuselah's death?

A. The destruction of the world by an universal deluge, except Noah and his family, who were preserved in the ark; thus the whole world was destroyed by a deluge.

Q. How many sons had Noah?

A. Three; Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who re-peopled the earth after the flood.

CHAP. XXII.

Of the most remarkable Events from the Deluge to the Building of Solomon's Temple, being a Period of 1944 Years.

Q. WHAT is the first remarkable event that happened after the Flood?

A. The building of the tower of Babel, by Noah's posterity, upon which God confounded their language, and thus dispersed them into different nations.

Q. In what year of the world did this happen?

A. In the year 1757, being 101 years after the deluge.

Q. What is supposed to have soon happened after the building of the tower of Babel?

A. The departure of Noah, with a few friends, into the East, who are supposed to have been the founders of the Chinese monarchy.

Q. What city first gave birth to learning and the sciences ?

A. Babylon.

Q. What people first made observations on the celestial bodies, and when ?

A. The people of Babylon, in the year of the world 1770.

Y. What was the next event worthy of particular notice ?

A. Soon after this, Misraim, the son of Ham, founded the kingdom of Egypt, which lasted 1663 years, down to its conquest by Cambyzes, in the year before Christ 525.

Q. When, and by whom, was the kingdom of Assyria founded ?

A. It was founded in the year of the world 1945, by Ninus, the son of Belus, and lasted above 1000 years.

Q. What event happened A. M. 2039 ?

A. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire from heaven, for their wickedness.

Q. When was Moses, the celebrated law-giver born, and where ?

A. Moses was born in Egypt, in the year of the world 2433.

Q. Who adopted Moses as her son, and educated him in all the learning of the Egyptians?

A. The daughter of Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

Q. What was the next event worthy of our notice?

A. In 2444 of the year of the world, Cecrops brought a colony from Egypt into Greece, and founded the kingdom of Athens, which is so much celebrated in history.

Q. What event happened in the year of the world 2458?

A. Spemander came into Crete, from Phrygia, and began the kingdom of Troy.

Q. What is Crete?

A. An island in the Mediterranean sea, on which Mount Ida, so much celebrated by historians, is situated.

Q. What is the present name of ancient Phrygia?

A. Syria, part of Asiatic Turkey.

Q. What discovery was made to the Grecians A. M. 2511?

A. The discovery of letters, which were taken over by Cadmus from Phoenicia.

Q. What miracles were performed in the year 2513?

A. Those performed by Moses in Egypt, when he departed from that kingdom, together with 600,000 Israelites, besides children, which completed the 430 years of sojourning.

Q. To what country did the children of Israel go after leaving Egypt, and what miracle was performed on their journey?

A. Moses miraculously conducted the children of Israel through the Red sea, and took them to the desert of Sinai, in Arabia, where he received from God, and delivered to the people, the ten commandments.

Q. When were the first five books of the Bible written?

A. In the year of the world 2552, being 1452 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. How many years was the famous city of Troy built before the birth of our Saviour?

A. 1480 years.

Q. What gave rise to the much celebrated Trojan war, A. M. 2806?

A. Paris, one of the Trojan princes, having taken away Helen, the wife of Menelaus, King of Sparta, in Greece.

Q. How long did the siege of Troy continue?

A. Ten years, when it was taken and burnt by the Greeks.

Q. In what year of the world was the magnificent temple of Solomon finished, and where was it situated?

A. It was finished in the year 3000, and situated in the famous city of Jerusalem.

CHAP. XXV.

Of the memorable Events from the Building of Solomon's Temple, to the Birth of Christ, being a Period of 1004.

Q. WHO was the first profane writer and Greek poet, and when did he flourish?

A. Homer, who flourished A. M. 3097.

Q. When was money first made of gold and silver, and where?

A. It was first made at Argos, in the Morea, in Greece, A. M. 3110.

Q. When was the famous city of Carthage, in Africa, founded, and by whom?

A. It was founded by Queen Dido, A. M. 3135.

Q. When was the city of Rome first built, and by whom?

A. It was built by Romulus, the first king of the Romans, A. M. 3251, being 735 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. What astronomical event is on record as happening B. C. 721?

A. The first eclipse of the moon on record happened on the 19th of March in that year.

Q. When was money first coined at Rome?

A. 580 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. When did Pythagoras, the famous philosopher, flourish?

A. 493 years B. C.

Q. When was learning greatly encouraged at Athens, and a public library first founded?

A. 526 years before Christ.

Q. When did Pindar, the great lyric poet live?

A. A. M. 3569, being 431 years B. C.

Q. What important event happened to the Greeks in the year 480 B. C.

A. The Spartans, under Leonidas, cut to pieces at the pass of Thermophylæ; and the victory of Salamis by the Greeks over the Persians.

Q. When flourished Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia?

A. In the year of the world 3673, being 331 years before the birth of our Saviour.

Q. When did Nebuchadnezzar take Jerusalem?

A. Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem, after a siege of 18 months, 587 years before the birth of Christ.

Q. What immense army was destroyed by the power of the Almighty, in 713 B. C.

A. The army of Sennacherib, amounting to 185,000, was destroyed in one night by an angel.

Q. When flourished Demosthenes, the Athenian orator?

A. Demosthenes flourished A. M. 3681.

Q. When flourished Ptolemy Philadelphus, king of Egypt?

A. A. M. 3720, being 284 B. C.

Q. For what was he celebrated?

A. For employing seventy-two interpreters to translate the Old Testament into the Greek language, which translation is called the Septuagint.

Q. What celebrated characters flourished A. M. 3727?

A. Theocritus, the first Greek pastoral poet; Euclid, of Alexandria, in Egypt, the great mathematician; and Epicurus, the founder of the Epicurean philosophy, in Greece.

Q. Who flourished A. M. 3796?

A. Archimedes, the Greek geometrician.

Q. What celebrated characters were those who lived in the year of the world 3845?

A. Terence, of Carthage, the famous Latin comic poet; and also Diogenes*, of Babylon, the stoic philosopher.

Q. When lived Polybius, of Greece, the Greek and Roman historian?

A. A. M. 3880, when he published his much-esteemed productions.

Q. What celebrated character flourished A. M. 3592?

A. Julius Cæsar, when he made his first expedition into Britain.

Q. In what year of the world did Lucretius, the Roman poet, flourish?

A. A. M. 3953, being 51 years B. C.

Q. When was Alexandria taken by Cæsar?

A. B. C. 47; when the celebrated Alexandrian library, consisting of 400,000 volumes was destroyed by fire. This event is justly considered the most irreparable injury that literature ever received.

* Pronounced Dió-od'-je-nees.

Q. What interesting event happened A. M. 4004?

A. The birth of our Saviour at Bethlehem, on the 25th of December.

CHAP. XXVI.

Of the most remarkable Events during the first ten Centuries from the Birth of our Saviour?

Q. WHAT horrid deed did Herod commit A. D. 1?

A. He murdered all the children of Bethlehem, in order that Christ should not escape.

Q. What celebrated men flourished A. D. 17?

A. Livy, the elegant historian, who wrote the Roman history; Ovid, the ingenious elegiac poet; and Strabo, the Greek geographer.

Q. When was our Saviour crucified?

A. On a Friday, April 3, A. D. 33, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. What circumstance is recorded of our Saviour in his twelfth year?

A. His disputing in the Temple with the Jewish doctors.

Q. When did his resurrection and ascension take place?

A. His resurrection took place on Sunday, April the 5th; and his ascension on Thursday, May the 14th.

Q. When was London founded, and by whom?

A. It was founded in the year of our Lord 49, by the Romans.

Q. What British chieftain was carried in chains to Rome, and when?

A. The gallant Caractacus, A. D. 51.

Q. When was Christianity first introduced into Britain, and by whom?

A. It was first introduced A. D. 63 (supposed) by St. Paul or his disciples.

Q. What celebrated characters flourished in the year of our Lord 93?

A. Josephus, the Jewish historian; and Quintilian, the Roman orator.

Q. When were the Jews finally destroyed as a nation?

A. In the year 135, when the Romans destroyed 580,000 Jews in Judea, and banished the remainder out of it.

Q. When was silk first brought into England from India?

A. A. D. 274, and was first worn by the clergy.

Q. When did the Romans finally quit Britain?

A. In the year 426.

Q. What celebrated character was born A. D. 571?

A. Mahomet, the false prophet and impostor of Arabia.

Q. What new era commenced, A. D. 622?

A. The era of the Hegyra, or the flight of Mahomet from Mecca to Medina.

Q. When did this impostor die?

A. A. D. 632, in the 63d year of his age.

Q. When did the temporal dominion of the Pope commence?

A. In the year 755.

Q. When did the Danes first land in England?

A. A. D. 787.

Q. What important political event occurred in England in the year 827?

A. In that year the seven Saxon Kingdoms in England, called the Heptarchy, were united by Egbert, the first sole monarch of England.

Q. By whom, and when, were the Danes signally defeated, and driven from England?

A. By Alfred the Great, A. D. 878.

Q. When were the figures of arithmetic first brought into Europe, and by whom?

A. They were first brought into Europe by the Saracens, from Arabia, in the year of our Lord 991; before which the letters of the alphabet were used in all calculations.

CHAP. XXVII.

*Remarkable Events from the Tenth
to the End of the Eighteenth
Century.*

Q. WHEN did the Danes regain possession of England?

A. In the year 1013, and soon after Canute was made king.

Q. What important event happened in Scotland, A.D. 1040?

A. In 1040 Macbeth murdered Duncan, king of Scotland, and usurped his throne.

Q. By whom, and when, was the Saxon line restored in England?

A. By Edward the Third (called the Confessor), A. D. 1041.

Q. What great revolution happened in England in the year 1066?

A. In the year 1066 William, Duke of Normandy, landed in England, and having defeated the army of Harold, who was killed on the field of battle, near Hastings, in Sussex, the Norman line began.

Q. What great prelate was murdered at the altar of Canterbury cathedral in 1171?

A. Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Q. When did the English first begin to use glass windows?

A. In the year of our Lord 1180; and then only in private houses.

Q. When was Magna Charta signed, and by whom?

A. It was signed A. D. 1215, by King John and the Barons of England.

Q. What kind of houses had the English, French, and Germans, A. D. 1234?

A. They were all thatched with straw.

Q. When was Wales conquered by the English?

A. Wales was conquered in 1283, by Edward I. who united it to England.

Q. When was gold first coined in England?

A. In the year of our Lord 1320.

Q. When were gunpowder and guns first introduced, and by whom?

A. They were first invented A. D. 1340, by Swartz, a monk of Cologne.

Q. When was the art of printing invented?

A. In the year 1440, by John Guttemberg, a German.

Q. What dreadful catastrophe occurred at Dort, in Holland, and when?

A. In the year 1446, the sea broke in at

Dort, in Holland, and drowned 100,000 persons.

Q. When did the kingdom of the Moors in Spain terminate?

A. The Moorish dominion in Spain ended in 1491, after their having had possession of that country 800 years.

Q. When was America discovered, and by whom?

A. It was first discovered, A. D. 1492, by Columbus, a Genoese, in the service of Spain.

Q. When were shillings first coined in England?

A. A. D. 1505.

Q. When did the Reformation take place in England?

A. A. D. 1534. The Bible was first printed in English in 1539; and, in the same year, 645 monasteries and religious houses were suppressed, in England and Wales.

Q. What great naval victory did the English gain in 1588?

A. In 1588 the Spanish Armada was destroyed by the English.

Q. When were watches first brought into England, and whence?

A. Watches were first brought into England, A. D. 1526, from Germany.

Q. When was king Charles the First beheaded?

A. A. D. 1649; and after the usurpation of Cromwell, who died in 1658, Charles the Second's Restoration to the Crown took place, A. D. 1660.

Q. What dreadful disease raged in London, A. D. 1665?

A. The plague, which took off 68,000 persons.

Q. What calamitous event happened the year following?

A. The great fire in London, which destroyed 13,000 houses.

Q. When was tea first brought into England?

A. In the same year, namely 1665.

Q. When did the union of the two kingdoms of England and Scotland take place?

A. On the 22d of July, 1707.

Q. In what year, and at what expense, was St. Paul's church rebuilt?

A. The expense of building this church was one million sterling; it was rebuilt in 1710.

Q. When did the first rebellion in Scotland begin?

A. In September, 1715, and the rebellion was crushed at the beginning of the following year.

Q. What great astronomer died in 1727?

A. Sir Isaac Newton.

Q. When did the second Scottish rebellion begin?

A. In 1745.

Q. What put an end to this rebellion?

A. The victory gained by the Duke of Cumberland, at Culloden, April 16, 1747.

Q. When was the New Style introduced into England?

A. In the year 1752.

Q. In what year happened the great earthquake at Lisbon, and what are the particulars of that dreadful event?

A. This earthquake happened Nov. 1st. 1755; it shook all Spain and Portugal, and laid the city of Lisbon in ruins: more than 10,000 persons perished on that occasion.

Q. When did the Americans declare themselves independent of Great Britain?

A. In the year 1776.

Q. How many victories did Admiral Rodney gain over the French and Spaniards?

A. On Jan. 8, 1780, he took 22 Spanish ships; on the 16th, five more. On the 12th of April, 1782, he gained a complete victory over the French fleet, taking five sail of the line, and sinking another.

Q. What melancholy event happened at Portsmouth in 1782?

A. The Royal George, of 100 guns, commanded by Admiral Keppel, and long held as the first ship in the British navy, was, by the carelessness of the carpenters, who were giving her a slight careening, overset and sunk, and the Admiral, with 800 persons, buried in the ocean.

Q. In what year were felons first transported to Botany Bay?

A. In 1787.

Q. At what time did the French Revolution commence?

A. In 1789, when the Bastile was demolished by the populace.

Q. When did France declare itself a republic?

A. In 1792; and the next year the King and Queen of France were guillotined—the King Jan. 21, and the Queen Oct. 16.

Q. What country was visited by a direful plague this year?

A. Egypt. It destroyed 800,000 persons.

Q. What victory was obtained by Lord Howe?

A. In the year 1794, on the 1st of June, the French fleet was completely defeated by the fleet under the command of his lordship; the French fleet lost eight sail of the line.

Q. Was not another French fleet defeated by the British in the following year?

A. Yes: in 1795, the English fleet, un-

der Lord Bridport, took three French sail of the line.

Q. By whom was the Spanish fleet also defeated?

A. By Sir John Jervis (afterwards created Earl St. Vincent) in 1797.

Q. What other victory was gained the same year?

A. The Dutch fleet was defeated Oct. 11, by Admiral (afterwards Lord) Duncan, who took nine sail of the line and two frigates.

Q. What next naval defeat did the enemy suffer?

A. Admiral Nelson gained a great victory over the French fleet, off Egypt, on the 1st of August, 1798, taking or destroying eleven sail of the line and two frigates.

Q. What serious attempt was made on the King, May 15, 1800?

A. The King's life was attempted, at Drury-lane theatre, by Hatfield, who fired off a pistol loaded with ball, from the pit, at his Majesty. On the same day, at a review in Hyde-park, a young gentleman who stood near the King was wounded a bullet.

CHAP. XXVIII.

*Remarkable Events since the Year
1800.*

Q. When was peace signed?

A. The definitive treaty of peace was signed at Amiens, between France and England, Oct. 1, 1802.

Q. When did the war again commence?

A. It commenced again in the year 1803.

Q. What memorable battle took place between the English, and the French and Spanish fleets?

A. The glorious battle of Trafalgar, in which twenty French and Spanish ships of the line were taken or destroyed by the gallant Lord Nelson, who fell in the moment of victory, Oct. 21, 1805.

Q. When was the slave-trade abolished by the British parliament?

A. In 1807. In the same year, the new Constitution of Hayti (formerly St. Domingo) was proclaimed.

Q. When was peace made between England and Spain?

A. Jano 7, 1808.

Q. When did the Prince of Wales assume the power of Regent?

A. On the 18th of February, 1812.

Q. When did Buonaparte set out for his invasion of Russia?

A. He left St. Cloud with an army of 600,000 men on the 9th of May, 1812, and reached the Vistula on the 6th of June.

Q. When did the French army enter Moscow?

A. On the 14th September, 1812.

Q. At what time did the French evacuate Russia?

A. They left Moscow on the 19th of October; and Buonaparte, having deserted his army, reached Paris on the 18th of December.

Q. When was the famous battle of Leipzig fought?

A. On the 16th of October, 1813.

Q. When did Buonaparte relinquish his throne?

A. He abdicated the throne of France, and retired to Elba in April, 1814.

Q. What celebrated foreigners visited England in 1814?

A. The Emperor of Russia the King of Prussia, Prince Blucher, and many others.

Q. When did Buonaparte return to France?

A. On the 1st of March, 1815.

Q. On what day was the glorious battle of Waterloo fought?

A. On the 18th of June, 1815.

Q. To whom was the Princess Charlotte of Wales married, and when?

A. She was married to Leopold, Prince of Saxe Cobourg, on the 2d of May, 1816.

Q. When did Lord Exmouth defeat the Algerines?

A. On the 27th of August, 1816.

Q. What persons were conveyed from the Tower to the Court of King's Bench for trial for treason, in 1817?

A. Watson, Thistlewood, Preston, and Hooper. Watson was acquitted, after a

trial of seven days; and the others were discharged without a trial.

Q. What bookseller was tried for publishing three political parodies in that year?

A. Mr. Hone. On his first trial, he made a defence which lasted seven hours; on his second, his defence occupied eight hours; and on the third, it lasted nine hours. He was acquitted on all three.

Q. When did the Princess Charlotte die?

A. She died on the 5th of November, 1817, universally lamented; her virtues having endeared her to all classes of society.

Q. What other illustrious female died in the following year?

A. Her gracious Majesty Queen Charlotte, who departed this life on the 17th of November, 1818, in the 75th year of her age. Her long life had been spent in the exercise of domestic duties; and though surrounded by the splendour of a Court, she was a decided enemy to its dissipation.

Q. When did the Manchester meeting for a Radical Reform take place?

A. On the 16th of August, 1819. It consisted of upwards of 60,000 persons, at the head of whom was Mr. H. Hunt, of oratorical notoriety; but owing to its dispersion by a military force, it terminated very fatally, many persons having been wounded, and some killed, in attempting to escape.

Q. When did his late Majesty George III. die?

A. On the 29th of January, 1820, in the 60th year of his reign, and 82d of his age, and was succeeded by his present Majesty George IV.

Q. What plot was discovered in the month of February, 1820?

A. A plot, called the Cato-street conspiracy, from the conspirators, whose object it was to assassinate his Majesty's ministers, assembling at a stable in Cato-street.

Q. What was the result of this discovery?

A. The ringleaders, Thistlewood, Davidson, Ings, Brunt, and Tidd were hanged in front of Newgate, and their heads after-

wards severed from their bodies. The other horrid ceremonies, usual on the execution of traitors, were dispensed with.

Q. When did her Majesty Queen Caroline return to England?

A. She landed at Dover on the 5th of June, 1820, having been absent from England about six years.

Q. What unpleasant event took place soon after her return?

A. She was charged with acting in a highly unbecoming manner during her residence abroad, and was accordingly tried in the House of Lords by the Peers of the realm.

Q. What was the result?

A. After a long and painful trial, on the merits of which great difference of opinion existed, her Majesty was exculpated from the disgusting crimes laid to her charge.

Q. When was George the Fourth crowned?

A. On the 19th of July, 1821. The ceremony of the coronation was exceedingly splendid, and there was but one thing wanting to render the spectacle complete.

Q. What was that?

A. The presence of the Queen to take her share in the august ceremony. This, however, she was refused, the Privy Council having declared that the coronation of a queen-consort formed no part of the law of the land, but depended solely on the will of the sovereign.

Q. What part of his dominions did the King visit immediately after his coronation?

A. Ireland, where he was received with the most enthusiastic joy by the people.

Q. When and where did the unhappy Queen Caroline die, and where was she buried?

A. She died at Brandenburgh House (Hammersmith,) on the 7th of August, 1821, after a short but severe illness. At her request her remains were conveyed to Brunswick to be deposited by the side of her gallant father and brother.

THE END.