

OUTLINES  
OF  
CHRONOLOGY;

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS.

EDITED BY

MRS. GORDON.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following elementary outline of chronological science is printed for the purpose of furnishing the Editor's pupils with a convenient help to their historical studies. But, although intended mainly to supply a felt want in her own seminary, the Editor will be gratified if it shall also be found acceptable beyond the limits for which it is more immediately destined. A similar want may have been felt by others, engaged, like herself, in the labours of tuition; and the present attempt to supply it may possibly receive from them a friendly welcome. Nor, perhaps, may it prove altogether unacceptable to that interesting portion of the youthful community who have formed the laudable purpose of preserving and extending at home the knowledge of which at school they have laid the foundations and acquired the love.

In the early, and essentially conjectural, dates with which the Tables commence, it is only round numbers that have been employed. Any departure from these at that period of the world's history would both be an unnecessary tax upon the pupil's memory, and have a positive tendency to mislead, by indicating a degree of exactness in our knowledge which has no existence in fact. But after we come down to a period at which something like accuracy is really attainable, pains have been taken to secure it; and it is believed that no very glaring errors will

be found to have been committed. The events selected for notice are either such as are in themselves of prominent historical importance, or such as, from their connexion with others of that description, seem calculated to serve as convenient aids to the memory.

It is almost superfluous to observe, that in an introductory manual of this sort, where utility with reference to an educational object is the sole end in view, the Editor could have no hesitation in copiously availing herself of the labours of others. The sources from which she has compiled will indeed be sufficiently obvious to all who are really acquainted with modern works upon the subject. But it may do no harm to mention that nothing whatever has been borrowed from any work in the English language prepared for the use of schools; as, indeed, had the Editor been acquainted with any manual suitable for her purpose, she would have greatly preferred using what lay ready to her hand, to bestowing on the preparation of the following pages an amount of time and labour utterly disproportioned to the slenderness of their bulk and pretensions. She will, however, regret neither her hours nor her trouble, if the little manual shall be found but half as useful as she hopes it is calculated to become.

ARGYLE TERRACE,

*Montreal, July, 1859.*

# INTRODUCTION.

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## § 1.

CHRONOLOGY (from the Greek words *chronos*, time, and *logos*, a discourse) is the science which teaches the measurement and division of Time; and, as a result of this knowledge, enables us to arrange the events of History in the order of their sequence, and to ascertain the intervals of time between them.

To give a complete definition of the notion of *time*, has been found one of the puzzles of metaphysics. "Si non rogas, intelligo"\* still remains as good an answer, to the question of what time is, as we are ever likely to obtain. Without troubling ourselves, therefore, about a definition, we may observe, that, as long as we are awake, there is a train of ideas which constantly *succeed* one another in the mind;—that, when

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\* Mr. Locke translates this, "The more I set myself to think of it, the less I understand it"; but the words might also be rendered, "I understand what it is, but I can't answer your question." We really have a perfect conception of what time *is*, as well as space and motion, although we are unable to define any of the three. Our inability to arrive at a definition arises, not from their obscurity, but from their extreme clearness. It was an observation of Descartes, that it is vain, and even dangerous, to attempt a definition of evident things, because in such cases we are apt to mistake a definition of the *word* for a definition of the *thing*.

we reflect upon these appearances, we are furnished with the idea of *succession*;—and that the distance between any two parts of that succession, or between the appearance of any two ideas in our minds, is what we call *duration*. Thus, the succession of ideas presents a consciousness from which we derive the perception of a certain lapse of time.

## § 2.

That an actual succession of ideas is requisite to our perception of time, is manifested by the circumstance, that, when that succession ceases, our perception of duration ceases with it. Thus, in profound sleep without dreaming, we have no perception whatever of duration. Having gone to sleep at night, we know, it is true, on waking in the morning, that a certain definite interval has elapsed; but we derive this knowledge by inference from external phenomena, and not from consciousness. We see that the darkness of night has changed to the light of day,—that the sun, which was below the horizon, is above it; and we know by experience that these changes are produced only *in a certain interval of time*; whence we conclude that such an interval must have elapsed since we fell asleep. But if we fall asleep in the evening, and do not awaken until the next day but one, we are unconscious of the lapse of more than one night.

## § 3.

Although a succession of ideas floating at hazard through the mind, or excited casually and without

regularity by external objects, produces a *perception* of time, it does not afford a *measure* of it. A series of agreeable thoughts has the effect of making time appear to pass with rapidity, whilst a series of painful or disagreeable impressions has the effect of making an equal portion of time seem very much longer. The series of events or perceptions which would supply a measure of time must be absolutely uniform and regular. In such case, the number of repetitions of the same event or phenomenon found between any two points of the series becomes the measure of the interval of time which has elapsed between them.

## § 4.

The series of phenomena which have been most universally adopted by mankind as measures of time, are those regularly recurring phenomena, the (real or apparent) motions of the heavenly bodies, especially those of the sun (earth) and moon, which are easily observable by all, and never cease to be reproduced with unvarying uniformity. Thus the revolutions of the earth upon its axis, of the moon round the earth, and of the earth round the sun, give rise to those natural divisions of time with which we are familiar under the denominations of *days*, *months*, and *years*. The other divisions of time are of a more artificial and arbitrary nature.

## § 5.

The term *day* has two distinct significations: it may mean either the *natural* or the *civil* day. The former, as opposed to *night*, means the interval during which

the sun remains above the horizon ; and at all parts of the earth, except the equator, it varies in length according to the season of the year : the latter embraces the period of a single complete revolution of the earth upon its axis, and consequently includes an entire day and night (Gr. *nuchthemeron*, Lat. *noctiduum*).

## § 6.

The day, whether natural or civil, is divided into *hours* ; and in all nations, from time immemorial, this division of the day has been a duodecimal division. Some peoples have counted the hours consecutively from one to twenty-four ; others have divided the day into two series of twelve hours each. It is probable that amongst the nations of antiquity the customary division of the natural day from sunrise to sunset, and of the natural night from sunset to sunrise, was each into twelve equal parts, called respectively hours of the day and hours of the night. It is evident that the diurnal hours could have been equal in length to the nocturnal hours only at the equinoxes ; that from the vernal to the autumnal equinox the diurnal were longer than the nocturnal hours, and from the autumnal to the vernal equinox the nocturnal were longer than the diurnal hours. The hours, both diurnal and nocturnal, were also subject to continual variations of length. From the first day of winter, or the shortest day, to the first day of summer, or the longest day, the diurnal hours constantly increased, and the nocturnal hours constantly decreased in length ; and from the first day of summer to the first day of winter, the nocturnal

hours constantly increased in length, whilst the diurnal hours constantly diminished. Inconvenient as such a mode of measuring the time must have been, according to our present notions, it is probable that it continued to be employed in Europe during the greater portion of the Middle Ages; and that the division into hours of uniformly equal length did not take place, except for astronomical purposes (equinoctial hours), until the invention of mechanical clocks towards the twelfth century of the Christian era.

## § 7.

The moment at which the day commences is a point in regard to which there has been much disagreement in the practice of different nations. The Babylonians or Chaldeans began their day at sunrise, and divided it and the night into twelve hours each. They also invented sun-dials and water-clocks of a rude description. The Hebrews fixed the commencement of their day at sunset: their ancient division of it was into evening and morning, noon and night—the night being also divided into watches: it was from the Babylonians that they first learned the division into hours. The ancient Greeks also commenced their day at sunset. Before the time of Herodotus (B. C. 450), they appear to have learned from the Babylonians both the division of the day into hours, and the use of the sun-dial; but neither of these were in common use amongst them until long afterwards. To denote the time of day, they employed expressions borrowed from the common functions of life; and, for ascertaining the four watches

into which they divided the night, they made use of a rude water-clock called a clepsydra. The Romans divided the natural day and the natural night into twelve hours each; but as their civil day began at midnight—the seventh nocturnal hour—their nocturnal hours were thus distributed over two civil days. Like the Greeks, they divided the night-into four watches (*vigiliae*), in the regulation of which they were guided by observing the heavenly bodies, or by the clepsydra. The position of the sun served to indicate to them the time of day. About three centuries before Christ they were acquainted with the sun-dial: the water-clock was introduced among them by Scipio Nasica in the year B. C. 164. The Italians, even to the present time, divide the day into twenty-four successive hours, reckoned continuously from sunset to sunset. Thus, at an hour before sunset, it is twenty-three o'clock; at two hours before sunset, it is twenty-two o'clock, and so on. According to this system, the hour of sunrise varies from day to day, and from season to season; but the hour of sunset is constant, being twenty-four o'clock. It is evident that a clock to indicate such time must be set from day to day, or at least from week to week, since each succeeding sunset would be constantly later than the previous one during one-half the year, and constantly earlier during the other half. The English, French, Germans, and the moderns generally, commence the day at midnight and divide it into two equal series of twelve hours, so that midday and midnight are equally twelve o'clock. According to this system of reckoning, it is necessary, whenever an hour

is named, to indicate its relation to noon. The hours before noon are indicated by the letters A. M., and those after noon by P. M., being the initials of the Latin words *ante meridiem* (before midday), and *post meridiem* (after midday). Modern astronomers divide the day into twenty-four successive hours reckoned from noon to noon. Thus, according to their manner of reckoning, twenty minutes and a half after ten o'clock in the morning would be 22h. 20m. 30s. Civil or common time, therefore, is half a day before astronomical time. Thus, for example, the first day of the year 1859, according to civil reckoning, commenced at the moment of midnight between the 31st December, 1858, and 1st January, 1859; but, according to astronomical reckoning, it commenced at midday on 1st January, 1859. It follows, therefore, that the twelve hours which preceded the noon of 1st January, 1859, were, according to astronomical reckoning, the last twelve hours of the year 1858.

## § 8.

Next to the alternations of day and night, the changes of the moon form the most striking appearance amongst the heavenly bodies; and as the regularity of their occurrence must soon have attracted attention, we are not surprised to find that in the earliest ages they were used as a measure of time.

The sun (apparently) and the moon (really) move round the celestial sphere in the same direction; but the moon moves more than thirteen times as fast as the sun, and consequently makes more than thirteen

revolutions of the heavens whilst the sun makes one. The moon is, therefore, constantly either departing from or approaching to and overtaking the sun. At the moment it overtakes the sun, it is said to be in *conjunction*, and is called *new moon*. At the moment it is in the opposite part of the heavens, it is in *opposition*; and as it then presents its enlightened hemisphere directly towards the earth, it appears with a complete circular disc, and is called *full moon*. When it is midway betwixt conjunction and opposition, it is said to be in its quarters: it then appears as an enlightened semicircle, and is called *half moon*. The time which it takes to make one complete revolution of the heavens is called its *period*, and is found by exact observation to amount to 27 days 7 hours 43 minutes and  $11\frac{1}{6}$  seconds.

The interval between two successive conjunctions of the moon with the sun, or between two successive new moons, is greater than the moon's period. If we suppose the sun and moon to start together from conjunction, the moon, moving more than thirteen times as fast, immediately gets before the sun, and returns to the point from which she had started in 27d. 7h. 43m. and  $11\frac{1}{6}$ s., as we have just seen: but during this time the sun also has been (apparently) moving in the same direction, and the next conjunction, or new moon, cannot therefore take place until the moon overtakes him, which it will still require somewhat more than two days to accomplish. By the most exact observations and calculations it has been found that the interval between two successive conjunctions is 29d. 12h. 44m.  $2\frac{59}{100}$ s. This interval is called a *lunation*.

## § 9.

The moon's *period* is not well suited for a measure of civil time, because the moment which terminates one period and begins the next is not marked by any conspicuous and generally observable phenomenon, and can only be ascertained by astronomers. But the recurrence of the *lunation*, and even of its fractional parts, is marked by phenomena so striking and so universally observable even without instruments, that in all ages and countries we find it used by common consent as a measure of time. It received the appellation of *month* (Anglo-Saxon *monath*, from *mona*, the moon): but the civil month, being now arranged with reference to the year (see § 10), no longer corresponds to the lunation, nor does it retain any reference to the moon beyond the name.

A natural division of the lunation into four quarters corresponding to the changes of the moon, would make each of these quarters correspond pretty nearly to a period of seven days; and such has probably enough been the origin of the *week* amongst various ancient nations, including the Chinese, the ancient Peruvians, and the ancient Germans. The week of the Christian nations, however, is derived from the Jews, amongst whom, by the setting apart of the Sabbath, it possessed from the first a religious signification. One of the chief Jewish festivals, namely, the feast of Pentecost (the thanksgiving for the harvest), was determined by a cycle of weeks, and was therefore often called the Feast of Weeks. But in the affairs of common life the Jews seem to have reckoned more usually by days than by

weeks until after their return from the captivity. Neither in the Old nor in the New Testament do we find names for the different week days. These names would appear to have had originally an astrological meaning, referring to the different planets under the influence of which the first hour of each particular week-day was imagined to stand, as the Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn. This astrological week was, about the commencement of the Christian era, introduced amongst the Greeks (who until then had divided their months into *decades*, or periods of ten days), and amongst the Romans (who previously had had a week of eight days); and by the time that the Christian week, adopted from the Jews, was officially recognised by Constantine, the heathen names for the week-days had taken such firm root that they continued in common use. Besides the name of Sunday, however, (*dies solis*,) the Christians gave the first day of the week an appellation, *dies dominicus* (the Lord's day), which has been retained in the modern Romanic languages (Ital. *Domenica*; French, *Dimanche*). In these languages, however, for the week-days from Monday to Friday inclusive, the original names were retained, the seventh day receiving the name of the Sabbath. Thus,

LATIN.	ITALIAN.	FRENCH.
Dies Lunae.	Lunedì.	Lundi.
" Martis.	Martedì.	Mardi.
" Mercurii.	Mercordì.	Mercrèdi.
" Jovis.	Giovedì.	Jeudi.
" Veneris.	Venerdì.	Vendredi.
" Saturnii (Sabbati).	Sabato.	Samedi..

The English names for the days of the week have come down from the Anglo-Saxons.

Previously to the introduction of Christianity amongst them, the ancient Germans seem to have had a week of their own, and to have given names to its days under Roman influence, which may probably enough have reached them through Gaul. For Sunday and Monday the Roman names were retained: for the other days they selected the names of those German deities which seemed to bear most resemblance to the corresponding gods of Rome. To the Roman Mars corresponded the Teutonic Ziu, whence dies Martis became Ziu's-day, Tuesday; to Mercury corresponded the Teutonic Wodan (Scand. Odin), whence dies Mercurii became Wodan's-day, Wednesday; dies Jovis became the day of Thor, the god of thunder, Thor's-day, Thursday; dies Veneris became the day of Fría, the spouse of Wodan, Fría's-day, Friday; dies Saturnii, Saturn's-day, Saturday, was retained in many of the Teutonic languages, and amongst others in the Anglo-Saxon; but in the Scandinavian dialects it became *laugar dagr*, *löverdag*, or *lördag*, equivalent to *bathing* or *washing-day*.

§ 10.

Although moons or months afforded a convenient mode of measuring time amongst the earliest peoples, it could not, in the course of time fail to strike them that a more convenient mode of reckoning and dividing time, not only for the more regularly recurring labours of the field, but even for the pursuits of pasturage, hunting, and fishing, arose from the changes of the

seasons. Thence would originate the division of time into *years*, or those intervals in the course of which the sun makes a complete revolution of the heavens, and the seasons are periodically reproduced.

The ascertainment of the exact period occupied by such a revolution was a matter of some difficulty. In their first attempt at the establishment of the annual standard, the Egyptians gave the year 360 days, which they divided into twelve periods of 30 days each. These periods we may, if we please, term months; but we must bear in mind that they were months which, like our modern civil months, had no reference whatever to the moon. They subsequently added five supplementary days to their year: these five days (the addition of which to the original year is attributed to one of their gods or heroes called by the Greeks *Hermes Trismegistos*) were intercalated betwixt the termination of the old year and the commencement of the new. Amongst other nations, the practice of reckoning by moons had taken such root before they began reckoning by years, that, when they adopted the latter mode of reckoning, they assumed the year to consist of a certain number of lunar months. The year of the Jews consisted of twelve lunar months, to which, however, in order to establish an approximative harmony with the solar year, they occasionally added a thirteenth. The new month commenced with the first appearance of the new moon in the evening twilight. If the weather was not clear enough to allow the new moon to be seen when it was looked for, the new month was reckoned to commence at the end of thirty days from

the commencement of the old one. At the end of twelve lunar months, the question whether a new year were to commence or a thirteenth month were to be added, depended on the circumstance of whether the growing crop of barley were so far advanced towards maturity that, by the middle of the first month, afterwards called Nisan, which fell in the time of the vernal equinox, the sheaf of the first fruits could be offered to Jehovah according to the command of Moses. This fluctuating mode of measuring their years was retained by the Jews not only throughout the period of the Babylonian captivity, but down to the destruction of Jerusalem. The division of the year amongst the Greeks is involved in some obscurity; and this obscurity is increased by the circumstance that the different Hellenic States were at variance with each other in regard both to the number and the lengths of their months, as well as to the period at which the year commenced. We know, however, that they early attained a very precise knowledge of the period of the lunar phases, and that these served as the basis of their chronometric system. They estimated the lunation at  $29\frac{1}{2}$  days (which is within three quarters of an hour of its actual length), and this period they took for their month. For the sake of convenience they made the months consist of 29 and 30 days alternately; and twelve of these months composed their year. Such a year, however, consisting of only 354 days, deviated from the periodical return of the seasons by more than 11 days, so that after the lapse of three years the seasons were put back more than a month, and after the

lapse of eighteen years they were actually reversed,—midsummer taking the place of midwinter, and *vice versa*. But the return of the seasons constituted so obvious and so natural a measure of the year, and was so intimately connected with the business of life, and especially with agriculture, that no standard which greatly varied from it could long be maintained. Attempts, therefore, were early made amongst the Greeks to bring their series of twelve months into harmony with the period of the seasons, and finally their several lengths were so adjusted as to produce a total of 365 days,—an interval so nearly corresponding to the true succession of the seasons that an age must elapse before any important discordance would be rendered manifest.

The Roman mode of measuring the year was originally very rude; and it continued very imperfect down to the time of the great reformation of the calendar effected by Julius Cæsar. The Roman year is supposed to have consisted originally of 304 days, portioned amongst ten months,\* and to have been extended (in

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\* The first four months of the Roman year were named *Martius*, *Aprilis*, *Majus*, and *Junius*. The name *Martius* is derived from the god Mars, the supposed father of Romulus. *Aprilis* is derived by Ovid from the Latin word *aperire*, to open, in allusion to the opening vegetation of spring: more probably, however, it comes by metathesis from *Parilis*, the equivalent of *Pallis*, because on the 21st of that month, which was the supposed anniversary of the foundation of the city by shepherds, were celebrated the *Parilia* or *Palilia*, the festival of the shepherd god Pales. The true etymologies of *Majus* and *Junius* are uncertain, although various conjectural ones have been assigned. The names of the other six months, which expressed merely

the time, as is said, either of Numa or of one of the Tarquins) to 355 days, distributed over twelve months. It, however, soon appeared that the year of 355 days did not remain in harmony with the revolutions of the seasons, but that these were yearly becoming about ten or twelve days later, according to the calendar, than they had been the year before. The expedient adopted by way of remedy was to introduce into every second year a thirteenth month, called Mercedonius, consisting alternately of 22 and 23 days, and inserted immediately after the 23rd February. Thus a series of four years consisted of—

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their numerical order, were *Quintilis* (fifth month), *Sextilis* (the sixth), *September* (the seventh), *October* (the eighth), *November* (the ninth), and *December* (the tenth). The two months afterwards added received the names of *Januarius* and *Februarius*,—the former in honor of the old Italian god, Janus, and the latter in honor of Februus, an Etrurian god, who seems to be identified with Pluto. *Quintilis* subsequently received the name of *Julius*, in honor of Julius Cæsar, and *Sextilis* the name of *Augustus*, in honor of that Emperor. It was afterwards attempted to change the names of September, October, November, and December into names derived from the Emperors Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, and Domitian; but the new names would not stick, and so the old remained. The months were divided by *Calends* (whence we have the familiar word *Calendar*), *Nones*, and *Ides*, which originally corresponded, the first to the new moon, the second to the first quarter, and the third to the full moon. This correspondence, however, was lost sight of after the solar year came into use, though the *names* were retained as convenient for making subdivisions, just as the *word month* is still retained in modern languages, although the *thing* signified has ceased to have any connection with a revolution of the moon.

	Days,
1. An ordinary year of 355 days, . . . . .	355
2. A year of 355 days + Mercedonius, 22 days, 377	377
3. An ordinary year of 355 days, . . . . .	355
4. A year of 355 days + Mercedonius, 23 days, 378	378
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	1465

But the true length of four solar years being only 1461 days, four Roman years as thus established would be four days too long; so that every four years the seasons would fall four days earlier in the year than they had done four years before, and in the short period of thirty years they would severally be moved back a month. This consequence becoming apparent, a remedy was sought by confiding to the pontiffs a discretionary power of intercalating as many days as they might consider necessary to preserve harmony betwixt the year of the calendar and the year of the seasons. But the pontiffs, abusing the power confided to them, their proceedings created so much disorder that at last the various festivals fell entirely out of coincidence with the seasons of the year at which they ought to have been celebrated.

#### § 11.

It was reserved for Julius Cæsar, in his capacity of chief pontiff, not only to put an end to this confusion and the abuses in which it originated, but to establish a system of recording time which has descended to the present day, and is denominated, from its founder, the

Julian Calendar. He was aided in this great reformation by two eminent astronomers, viz., Marcus Flavius, a Roman, and Sosigines, an Egyptian—he himself having also paid some attention to astronomy when in Egypt, where the science was so far advanced that the length of the solar year was known to be about 365 $\frac{1}{4}$  days. The adoption of a civil year of exactly that duration, would, however, have involved inconvenient consequences. Thus if we suppose such a year to commence at midnight between 31st December and 1st January, the succeeding year would commence at 6 a.m. on the next 1st January; the next at noon on the following 1st January; the next at 6 p. m. on the 1st January of the third year; and, in fine, the next at the midnight between the 1st and 2nd January of the fourth year. Thus, in a series of four years, the first of January would be transferred piecemeal, quarter by quarter, backwards to the preceding year. Instead of this, Cæsar decided to adhere to years consisting of the whole number of days (365) and to allow the fraction of  $\frac{1}{4}$  to accumulate until, at the end of four years, it should amount to an entire day, which was then to be added as a supplementary day to the year of its occurrence. The additional day given to the fourth year (which would thus consist of 366 days) was introduced where formerly the intercalary month Mercedonius had been introduced, namely, after the 23rd February, so that the 24th of February, (called in the Roman calendar a. d. VI. Kal. Martias) being reckoned twice over, received the name *ante diem bissextum* Kal. Mart., whence we have the

name of *annus bissextilis* (bissextile) for the intercalary year.\*

The future being thus provided for, it now remained to repair the consequences of past disorder, by bringing back the months to their normal position with respect to the seasons. To accomplish this, it was decreed that the year 708 from the building of the city (corresponding to the year B. C. 46, and to which chronologists have given the appellation of the *year of confusion*) should consist exceptionally of 445 days, by adding to the common year of 355 days, not only the intercalary month Mercedonius, but two extraordinary months, the first of 33 and the second of 34 days, which were inserted between the months of November and December. By this means the day of the vernal equinox was brought back to the 25th of March, the date which it was supposed to have held in the time of Numa Pompilius. A rectification of the intercalary system, which had fallen into some confusion after Cæsar's death, was effected by Augustus, in the year 8 B. C., on which occasion it was that he gave his own name to the month Sextilis. (§ 10.)

#### § 12.

The Julian Calendar, together with the Jewish week of seven days (§ 9), was adopted by the Christian

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\* The common name given to bissextile years in our language is leap-year,—a term of which it is difficult to see the propriety. In the ecclesiastical calendars of the European continent, the day called "intercalary" in bissextile years is not the 29th but the 24th of February.

nations of Europe, and remained the common calendar of Christendom down to the year of our Lord 1582. In various states it continued to be used much longer, and in Russia it remains in use down to the present day.

§ 13.

It has been already stated that the interval of 365½ days assumed in the Julian reformation as the length of a year, differs from its exact length by a fraction—though only a small fraction—of a day. As we have now to explain the part which this small fraction has played in chronology, it is requisite to attain and bear in mind a clear idea of the precise meaning of the term *year*.

A year, it has been said (§ 10), is the period after which the seasons are reproduced, or from the moment at which spring begins to the moment at which winter ends and spring recommences. This moment—and be it observed that we have here to do, not with days or hours, but with such minute periods of time as minutes, seconds, and fractions of a second—is considered to be the moment at which the centre of the sun's disc has such a position in the heavens that, if it were stationary there, day and night would be exactly equal—the sun would, during an apparent revolution of the heavens, be exactly twelve hours above and twelve hours below the horizon. But the sun's disc is not stationary. It has a continual easterly motion upon the heavens, moving at the rate of about 1° per day or 2¼' per hour, so that it does not retain the position in question more than a single second. It moves round the

heavens as the hand of a clock moves round its dial, passing incessantly from point to point. The exact point at which the centre of the sun is at the moment above described, is therefore called the equinoctial point, as the moment of time at which it passes through that point is called the equinox. There are two equinoxes and two equinoctial points. The first, called the vernal equinox, because it has been agreed to fix on it as the epoch of the beginning of spring, takes place about the 21st March; and the second, called the autumnal equinox, because it has been agreed to fix on it as the epoch of the beginning of autumn, takes place about the 23rd September. The two equinoctial points are situate at opposite sides of the heavens, separated one from the other by an entire hemisphere.

If these two points maintained a fixed position on the heavens, the interval between the moments at which the centre of the sun's disc would pass twice successively through either of them, would be in fact the interval during which the sun makes, or appears to make, a complete revolution of the heavens. This interval is called the *sidereal year*, and its exact length has been ascertained by astronomers to be 365 days 6 hours 9 minutes and  $10\frac{3}{10}$  seconds.

But the equinoctial points have not a fixed position on the heavens. They are subject to a slow displacement from year to year in a direction contrary to the motion of the sun. The amount of this annual displacement is small, being a little less than the sixteenth part of a degree: but, small as the displacement is, it has been very precisely measured; and its effects, which

are of the highest importance, as well in chronology as in astronomy, have been exactly appreciated.

On account of this removal of the equinoctial point backward, the sun, on making a revolution of the heavens, arrives at it sooner than it would have done had it not been displaced. This must be evident when it is considered that the equinoctial point, displaced in a direction contrary to that of the sun's motion, advances to meet the sun on its return. The sun therefore arrives at it before it makes a *complete* revolution of the heavens, and the time of each successive equinox *precedes* the time at which it would have taken place if the equinoctial point had been stationary. This phenomena has therefore been called the *precession of the equinoxes*. Its effect is, that the interval between two successive equinoxes, called the *equinoctial* or *tropical year*, is somewhat less than the *sidereal year*.

The sidereal year is of invariable length, and would on that account be well suited to be a standard measure of time; but it is rendered totally unfit for civil purposes by the circumstance that it is not in accordance with the periodic returns of the seasons. If the equinoctial points were stationary, the sidereal year would also be the equinoctial year, and in that case it would be coincident with the return of the seasons. But in consequence of the displacement of the equinoctial points, the commencement of the equinoctial anticipates that of the sidereal year; and although the extent of this anticipation is very small year by year, yet, accumulating during a long series of years, it causes the seasons to take place successively at every imaginable part of the sidereal year.

If the precession of the equinoxes, or, in other words, the annual displacement of the equinoctial point, were regular and constant, the equinoctial year, differing from the sidereal year by an inconsiderable quantity, would itself be invariable; and, as it is in accordance with the succession of the seasons, it would be in all respects eligible as a standard measure of civil time; but it so happens that, through the operation of several causes, the displacement is rendered variable; and though its variations are circumscribed within narrow limits, alternately increasing and decreasing, still, the existence of variation at all, renders the equinoctial year unfit for the purpose in question. A remedy for the variations has been found in the exact ascertainment of the *mean* annual displacement of the equinoctial point. This being done, a fictitious equinoctial point is supposed to exist, having this mean annual displacement; and, the interval between two successive returns of the sun to this fictitious equinoctial point being invariable, *that* interval is adopted as the standard, and is called the *mean solar or civil year*. Although it does not correspond rigorously with the returns of the seasons, it never varies from them by an interval great enough to be perceived or appreciated by any but astronomers: its exact length is 365d. 5h. 48m.  $49\frac{4}{10}$ s., being less than the sidereal year by 20m.  $20\frac{8}{10}$ s.

#### § 14.

The exact length of a year that would always remain in accordance with the successive returns of the seasons being 365d. 5h. 48m.  $49\frac{4}{10}$ s., whilst the length

of the Julian year was 365d. 6h., it follows that the Julian year would depart from the course of the seasons at the rate of  $11m. 10\frac{4}{10}s.$  per annum. The departure accumulating from year to year would amount to a whole day in 129 years, to two whole days in 258 years, to three in 387 years, and so on ; and although it would not be perceptible during the lives of a single generation, yet it must evidently become so after the lapse of centuries. The equinox falling back towards the beginning of the year at the rate of a day in 129 years was thus, in the fifteenth century, thrown back as much as eleven days, and would in the course of centuries have continually receded farther and farther, until it, and consequently the seasons, had successively assumed every possible position in the year. This fact, once ascertained, would of itself have afforded a sufficient reason for undertaking a revision and correction of the calendar. The immediate cause of the revision which took place was as follows :

§ 15.

It was the rule of the church to celebrate the festival of Easter at a time not far removed from the 21st March, which was taken to be the day of the equinox, depending, however, also upon conditions connected with lunar phenomena with which we are not at present concerned. If, therefore, the real equinox were continually falling back (§ 14) farther and farther from the 21st March, it must obviously happen that the festival of Easter, still related to the 21st March, would, in the course of time, fall successively in every season

of the year. This error began to be fully recognised about the beginning of the sixteenth century ; and after various attempts had been made to excite attention to the subject, it was taken up in earnest in the year 1577, by Pope Gregory XIII., under whose auspices a reformed calendar was prepared, which received the name of the *Gregorian calendar*. Gregory entrusted the superintendence of the whole reformation to Christopher Schlüssel, better known by his latinized name of Clavius, (+1712 æt. 75) a learned Jesuit, well known to mathematicians as a commentator on Euclid and other ancient geometers ; and the changes introduced, which were sanctioned by a bull dated 24th February and published 1st March, 1582, were as follows :

As at the epoch of the Julian reform, two errors were to be corrected, those of the past and those of the future. The accumulated effect of the past errors was, that the nominal epoch of the vernal equinox (21st March, the date on which it fell at the time of the Council of Nice in 325) had fallen ten days behind the real date of its occurrence. To remedy this, it was decreed that ten nominal days should be destroyed—an expedient which has since been by some considered unnecessary, and which undoubtedly has given rise to confusion and chronological error. The day which should have been the 5th of October, 1582, was ordered to be called the 15th, so that the ten days from the 5th to the 14th of October, inclusive, were never allowed to exist. The last ten days of 1582, according to the Julian Calendar, were thus thrown over into 1583, in-

asmuch as the 21st of December, 1582, became the 31st of December, 1582, and consequently 22nd December, 1582, became 1st January, 1583. The 11th March, 1583, according to the Julian Calendar, upon which the equinox really fell, thus became the 21st of March in the Gregorian Calendar, and the day of the equinox was secured for the future in the undisturbed possession of that date by the following arrangement :

We have already seen (§ 14) that the Julian year is too long by 11 minutes  $10\frac{4}{100}$  seconds. This will be found to make 400 years too long by about 3 days ; so that the error may be nearly corrected by reducing 3 leap-years in 400 years to common years. The mode of doing this was by neglecting to make leap-years of the *anni domini* which end with 00, unless the preceding figures are divisible by 4. Thus 1600 is leap-year, but 1700, 1800, 1900 are not leap-years. In the Julian Calendar *every* year is leap-year which is divisible by 4 ; in the Gregorian Calendar, the exception is that the *secular* years (those closing centuries, or ending with 00) are not leap-years unless they are divisible by 400. This correction leaves the year still a little too long. The difference would amount to a day in about 3600 years. To provide for this difference, the French astronomer, Jean Joseph Delambre (born 1749, †1822) proposed, and the proposal was adopted in the French revolutionary Calendar,\* that the years of the French

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\* This Calendar was introduced by a decree of the National Convention, dated 5th October, 1793, establishing the Era of the French Republic, the epoch, or point of departure, of which was the midnight at which commenced the day of the autumnal

Republic 3600, 7200, and 10,800 should not be leap-years. But Pope Gregory did not aspire to legislate for so remote a posterity.

§ 16.

Notwithstanding the undeniable reasonableness of Gregory's reform, the adoption of the change was far from universal. Protestant states and the Greek Church were equally disinclined to it, because it ema-

equinox (22nd September) 1792. Each subsequent year was in like manner to commence at midnight preceding the day of the true autumnal equinox. The year consisted of twelve months of 30 days each, to which were added in ordinary years 5, in leap-years 6 complementary days. Instead of weeks, the month was divided into three decades, or periods of ten days. The months received names denoting some characteristic quality. The autumnal months (22d September to 20th December) were *Vendémiaire* (Vintage month), *Brumaire* (Fog month), and *Frimaire* (Hoar-frost month); the winter months (21st December to 20th March) were *Nivose* (Snow month), *Ventose* (Wind month), and *Pluviose* (Rain month); the spring months (21st March to 18th June) were *Germinal* (Bud month), *Floreal* (Flower month), and *Prairial* (Meadow month); and the summer months (19th June to 17th September) were *Messidor* (Harvest month), *Thermidor* (Heat month), and *Fructidor* (Fruit month). The last was followed by the *jours complémentaires*, of which the first (17th September) was called *la fête du génie*; the second, *la fête du travail*; the third, *la fête des actions*; the fourth *la fête des récompenses*; and the fifth (21st September) *la fête de l'opinion*. The ten days of each decade were called *Primidi*, *Duodi*, *Tridi*, *Quartidi*, *Quintidi*, *Sextidi*, *Septidi*, *Octidi*, *Nonidi*, and *l'ecadi*. The last named was the day of rest. At the instance of Bonaparte, by a decree of the Senate, dated 9th September, 1805, to take effect from 1st January, 1806, the revolutionary calendar was abolished and the Gregorian restored.

nated from papal authority: truth was no longer truth when it issued from the Vatican; or, as it was wittily expressed, they preferred being in opposition to the sun to being in harmony with the Pope. The commencement of the reform was fixed by the papal bull for the day following the feast of St. Francis, that is to say, the 5th October, 1582, which was decreed to be called the 15th October; and the change was then adopted in Italy, Spain, and Portugal. It was adopted in France on 10th December of the same year, which was called 20th December. It was adopted in 1584 in the Catholic states of Germany, the Catholic cantons of Switzerland, and the Catholic provinces of the Netherlands. In Poland it was adopted in 1586; in Hungary in 1587. The Protestant states of Germany, having resisted the reform for nearly 120 years, yielded at length: they accepted it in 1700, of which year the 19th February was declared to be the 1st March. Denmark and the United Provinces made the change simultaneously with Protestant Germany, and their example was followed the subsequent year by the Protestant cantons of Switzerland, which commenced the eighteenth century with 12th January, 1701. In England, where the antepapal spirit was probably stronger than anywhere else, the reform was resisted for nearly two centuries, so that the real date of the equinox had come to fall eleven days earlier than the legal one. In 1752, however, the reform was adopted in England,—the 3d being declared to be the 14th of September. The change excited an immense deal of dissatisfaction, chiefly, no doubt, amongst the lower orders, but by no means confined

exclusively to that portion of the community. The mob pursued the minister in his carriage, clamouring for the eleven days by which, as they supposed, their lives had been shortened; and the illness and death, which shortly afterwards occurred, of the astronomer Bradley, who had assisted the government with his advice, were attributed by many to a judgment from heaven.\* The last country that adopted the change was Sweden, which in 1753 reckoned the day following 17th February as 1st March. The Russians, and in general, the schismatic Greek Church, still adhere to the Julian calendar; and accordingly, by the further accumulation of the effects of the erroneous length assigned to the year, the Russian legal equinoxes are now (since 1800) twelve days behind the real equinoxes. In the year 1900, the difference will amount to 13, and in 2100 to 14 days.

§ 17.

At present, throughout Christendom, the civil year commences from midnight of 31st December, that is, with 1st January; but this uniformity of reckoning is of modern and almost recent date. Amongst the French, in the time of Charlemagne, the year commen-

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\* The great promoters of the change in England, and the parties by whom the bill was introduced into the House of Peers, were the Earl of Macclesfield and the Earl of Chesterfield, both pupils of the celebrated mathematician DeMoivre. Lord Chesterfield alludes to his hand in it once or twice in his letters to his son. The last survivor of those whom they consulted was Charles Walmesley (born 1721, +1797), a Benedictine monk, afterwards vicar apostolic of the western district of England, well known as a mathematician, and a member of the Royal Society.

ced on Christmas-day : amongst the same people, under the monarchs of the house of Capet, it commenced on Easter-day ; and this was a very general date in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries : in England down to the change of style in 1752, it commenced on Lady-day (25th March).

## § 18.

A matter of more importance than the day of the year's commencement is the mode of computing by years, so as to be able to refer historical events to distinct times as the times of their occurrence. This is most conveniently done by selecting, some remarkable event to which the other events of history are to be referred as having occurred so many years before or so many years after it. Such an event is termed an *epoch*, and the period of which it forms the commencement or point of departure is termed an *era*. The number of epochs which have been used by different nations, and by the same nation at different periods or for different purposes, is considerable. The Jews employed as epochs, the Exodus, the Building of the Temple, the Accession of Herod, the Destruction of the Temple ; and the epoch from which they now date is the Creation of the World, which they reckon to have taken place 3761 years before the Christian epoch. The Greeks used to count from Cecrops, from the destruction of Troy, from the official years of the Ephori in Sparta and of the Archons in Athens. About 300 years before Christ, Timeus, a Sicilian historian, introduced the practice of reckoning by *Olympiads*, or the quadrennial recurrence of the Olympic games. These games were celebrated once

every four years between the new and full moon first following the summer solstice, on the banks of the river Alpheus, near the city of Pisa in the Peloponnasus, and lasted five days. Their original foundation is obscure, and has been connected with legendary tales about Pelops and Herakles. After having been neglected during several centuries, they are said to have been revived by Iphitus, King of a canton of Elis, in concert with Lycurgus, the lawgiver of Sparta. This much is certain, that they were finally established in the year B.C. 776, when the practice was introduced of inscribing in the gymnasium of Olympia the name of the victor in the contests. The first who received this honor was Coroebus ; and the games in which he was victorious were celebrated about the time of the summer solstice in the year just mentioned, which accordingly is the first year of the 1st Olympiad, and also the 3938th year of the Julian period (See. § 21), and 23 years before the foundation of Rome, according to Varro. The 293d and last Olympiad occurred A.D. 394, after which the games themselves were suppressed as heathenish by the Emperor Theodosius. The Romans used to reckon from the building of the city (A. U. C.), from the years of the consuls, and from the years of the Emperors. The consulship having become extinct in the reign of Justinian (A. D. 541), the mode of computing by consular years then necessarily ceased for the future. After the sixth General Council (A.D. 681), the prevailing epoch amongst the Greeks was the Creation of the World, which, following the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, they placed 5508 years before the Christian

epoch. This era, called the era of Constantinople, was long in general use throughout the Eastern Empire, and continued to be employed in Russia for both civil and ecclesiastical purposes down to the year 1700, when the Christian era was introduced by Peter the Great. In the Western Empire, the era of Diocletian, commencing with the accession of that Emperor (29th August, A.D. 284), and called also, from the ten years' persecution of the Christians which occurred in that reign, the era of the Martyrs, seems to have extensively prevailed. In Egypt it continued to be the civil era down to the conquest of that country by the Arabians; and, down even to the present day, it continues to be used in the ecclesiastical calendar of the Coptic and Ethiopian Christians. In the sixth century, the Abbot Dionysius, surnamed (by himself, from modesty) Exiguus, or the little, a Scythian by birth, but who died in Rome about the year 556, proposed the year of our Saviour's birth as a chronological epoch; and this epoch, giving rise to the Christian era, has since come to be generally adopted amongst Christian nations. A proposal exceedingly similar had already been made (A.D. 465) by another churchman, Victorinus or Victorius of Aquitaine,—the chief difference being, that Victorinus had proposed dating from the year of Christ's crucifixion, not of his birth. The latter event (his birth) Dionysius was led to conclude had occurred on the 25th December, in the 753d year from the foundation of Rome; and, according to the mode of reckoning finally adopted, the year 1 A.D. was that which commenced at midnight between 31st December of the 753d, and 1st January of

the 754th year of Rome,—that being the year in which Christ was supposed to have completed the first year of his age. In fixing upon that year, however, it is obvious that Dionysius has fallen into error. It appears from the narrative of Saint Matthew (c. ii. v. 1–19) that our Saviour was born towards the latter end of the reign of Herod the Great; and as Herod died, according to Josephus, in the year of Rome 750, at which time Jesus was with his parents in Egypt, his birth must have taken place at least four, and probably six years earlier than Dionysius computed. This circumstance, however, does not in any respect affect the value of the epoch for chronological purposes; because, whatever may have been the actual year of our Saviour's birth, it is the first day (1st January) of the year of Rome 754, that connects the Christian with the ancient chronology. In order, therefore, to convert any year of the Christian era into the corresponding year of Rome, it is only necessary to add 753 to it. Thus the year 1 A.D. was the year 754 of Rome; the year 20 A.D. the year 773 of Rome, and so on.

#### § 19.

Since, according to the Christian chronology, time is counted thus prospectively forward from the birth of Christ, the *year after* that event being taken as the first year of the series, it might by analogy be presumed that, in counting time retrospectively, the *year before* the same event would be taken as the first year of the backward series. Thus, while the year after the birth of Christ is 1 A.D., the year before that of the birth of

Christ would be the year 1 B.C., and consequently the year itself in which Christ was born would be either 0 A.D. or 0 B.C. indifferently. By such a mode of expressing dates, the interval between any day in any year A.D. and the corresponding day in another year B.C. would be found by adding together the numbers expressing the years. Thus the interval between 1st July 1 A.D. and 1st July 0 B.C. was 1 year; the interval between 1st July 1 A.D. and 1st July 1 B.C. was 2 years; the interval between 1st July 15 A.D. and 1st July 14 B.C. was 29 years, and so on. And this is, accordingly, the mode of expressing dates which astronomers employ. Unfortunately, however, it is not the mode which has been adopted by historians and chronologists. According to these, the year 753 of Rome, in which Christ is supposed to have been born, is the year 1 B.C., and consequently all their dates B.C. exceed the corresponding dates of astronomers by 1. Thus the year which astronomers call 500 B.C., historians call 501 B.C. To find, therefore, the interval between any day in a year A.D. and the corresponding day in any year B.C. when the historical dates are used, it will be necessary to add together the two dates and subtract 1 from their sum.

§ 20.

Historical events are often referred to as having occurred in a particular *century*. A century is a complete period of a hundred years. Eighteen such periods have already elapsed since the commencement of the Christian era, and we are now living in the nineteenth. The first century commenced at the instant of mid-

night preceding the 1st January 1 A.D. and ended at midnight of 31st December 100 A.D. The eighteenth century commenced with 1st January 1701, and ended with 31st December 1800. In like manner, the first day of the nineteenth century was 1st January 1801, and the last will be 31st December 1900.

§ 21.

Down to the latter part of the sixteenth century, chronology, as a science, can scarcely be said to have existed. All ancient history had been written in a servile and uncritical spirit, copying dates as it did everything else from the authorities immediately under the compiler's eye, with little or no endeavour to reconcile discrepancies, or to point out any principles of computation. In 1583, however, Joseph Scaliger, perhaps the most learned man either of his own or of any other age, published a work on the rectification of dates (*De emendatione temporum*), to which nothing that the age produced was superior, or perhaps equal, in originality, depth of erudition, or vigorous encountering of difficulties. It was a work requiring, besides much attention and acuteness, an amount of erudition, of which he alone in Europe could be reckoned master. He has been censured for introducing too many conjectures, and drawing too many inferences from conjectural data. But, whatever may be his merits in the determination of particular dates, he is certainly the first who laid the foundation of chronology as a science. It is to him we owe the invention of what is termed the *Julian period*, which was meant as an era of common reference to

which dates referred to other eras might be reduced, so as to form a common standard of historical and chronological time. This he found might be effected by taking a cycle of 7980 years, of which he fixed the commencement at the moment of noon for the meridian of Alexandria on 1st January 4713 B.C., and by the employment of this period, according to the testimony of the best modern chronologists, light and order were for the first time let in upon the obscurity and confusion in which ancient history and chronology were involved.\*

#### § 22.

About twenty years after Scaliger's death, Denis Petau or Petavius, a Jesuit (born 1583, died 1652), with learning scarcely inferior to Scaliger's own, published a very valuable work on the same subject. Using greater caution than his predecessor, and dissenting from many of his conclusions, he assailed him rather rudely, and displayed too great anxiety to refute him whether right or wrong. But his work was clear and methodical, and long served as a text-book in the universities. The first important contribution to the science made by an English writer, was Archbishop

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\* Since the year of the birth of Christ was the 4713th of the Julian period, the order of any later year of the Christian era in the Julian period will be found by adding 4713 to the year. Thus for example, the year 1859 is the  $1859+4713=6572$ d year of the current Julian period. To find the order of any year before Christ in the Julian period, it will only be necessary to subtract the year from the order of the year 1 of the Julian period, that is from 4714. Thus, the date of the battle of Cannæ being 216 B.C., its date in the Julian period is  $4714-216=4498$ .

Usher's Annals of the Old Testament, the first part of which was published in 1650, and the second part followed a few years afterwards. Usher's chronology is that which has been generally adopted by English historians ; and, having also been followed by the continental writers Bossuet, Calmet, and Rollin, it formed for many years the common chronological scheme of Europe. In our own day the chronologist of most weight and reputation is probably Christian Ludwig Ideler, Professor in the University of Berlin, from whose carefully elaborated works, from those of the other writers just named, and from a learned work, *L'art de vérifier les dates*, published by the Benedictines of St. Maur, the more popular recent works on chronology have mostly been compiled.

## § 23.

To the study of History, the science of Chronology forms a necessary and one of its most important auxiliaries. It is true, that, in spite of the many laborious inquiries that have been instituted and pursued within the last three centuries, the chronology of very remote events remains obscure and conjectural ; and the most judicious inquirers have of late been coming to the opinion, that, with some few exceptions, there are no means of establishing accurate dates before the Olympiads. But as it is impossible to attain a comprehensive view of historical events without marshalling them in some arrangement as regards their coincidence and sequence in time, we are forced from the very outset of our historical studies to recur, at least provisionally, to

some chronological system, even though we may utterly distrust its near approach to correctness. As we descend the stream, our chronology becomes gradually more reliable, until at last the date of every important occurrence may be ascertained with precision.

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The value of the following tabular exhibition of the more prominent events of universal history will probably consist less in the aid which it may afford to the pupil's imagination in combining these events into connected groups, than in the assistance which it will afford the memory, in recalling to it, by means of a word or a sentence, the substance of a lesson. The divisions and subdivisions into greater and lesser historical periods are those which are most usually adopted for the purpose of tuition. The three great periods of Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History, although they imply no interruption of continuity in the march of events, but on the contrary are linked closely together by multifarious ties, are yet characterized by features so essentially different, and by peculiarities and contrasts so striking, that each of them may in a certain sense be regarded as a separate and independent whole. An attempt has been made to indicate in a few sentences the general features of each; but any thing like a nearer consideration of these would lead us far beyond the limits of the present outline.

## ANCIENT HISTORY.

B.C. 4000—A.D. 476.

Ancient History, embracing the period from the creation of man to the overthrow of the Roman Empire of the West, contains *first*, the primitive history of the human race from Adam to Noah, and the division of peoples which took place shortly after the Flood; *secondly*, the fabulous history, or mythological period, of the earliest nations; *thirdly*, the historical period, or proper history, of the earliest nations of Asia, and of the settlers along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

## FIRST PERIOD.

B.C. 4000—B.C. 555.

## FROM ADAM TO CYRUS.

Primitive history of the human race from Adam to Noah.—Diffusion of Noah's descendants over the earth.—Foundation of the first great empires in Assyria and Babylonia.—Overthrow of the New Babylonian Empire by the Medo-Persians.—During this period Asia is the principal scene of historical events.

B. C.

4000. Adam and Eve in Paradise. Central Asia the original abode of the human race. Cain, Abel, Seth.

## B.C.

2300. Noah, the second universal parent of the human race. The deluge. Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
2000. The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. The first great states, Babylonia and Assyria (Babylon and Niniveh). Ninus and Semiramis. Ancient civilization of Egypt. Memphis, Thebes.
1900. Joseph in Egypt. The Phenicians the most ancient of trading nations. Their cities, Tyre and Sidon. Foundation of Colonies. Invention of letters, glass, purple. Emigration of the Pelasgians from Asia Minor into Greece.
1600. Athens founded by Cecrops from Egypt; Thebes by Cadmus from Phenicia. Danaus from Egypt in Argos. The Greeks, or "Hellenes," in Hellas.
1500. Moses in Egypt. Exodus of the Israelites. The law given from Mount Sinai. Conquest of Palestine. The Judges. Sesostris in Egypt.
1300. Immigrations into Greece from Egypt and Phenicia. Pelops.
1250. Argonautic expedition. Hellenic heroes: Jason, Hercules, Theseus, Œdipus. The musicians Orpheus and Amphion.
1200. Trojan war. Destruction of Troy. Grecian heroes: Agamemnon, Menelaus, Achilles, Ajax, Ulysses. Trojan heroes: Priam, Hector, Paris (the husband of Helen). Æneas escapes to Italy. Ascanius builds Alba Longa. The Latins; the Etruscans.

B.C.

1100. Samuel, the last of the Israelitish judges. Saul, the first of their kings. His successor, David. Jerusalem. Codrus, the last king of Athens. Greek colonists settle in Asia Minor, Sicily, and Lower Italy.
- 1000 Solomon, under whom the Hebrew monarchy attains its highest splendour. Its division, on his death (975), into the kingdom of Judah, under Rehoboam, and the kingdom of Israel, under Jeroboam. Homer.
888. Lycurgus, the Spartan lawgiver. Carthage, in Africa, founded by Dido with a Phœnician colony. Sardanapalus, the last ruler of the Assyrian empire. Media forms an independent state.
776. Commencement of the Hellenic mode of computation by olympiads, or periods of four years, so named from the games celebrated once in four years at Olympia, in Elis. Delphic oracle.
754. Rome founded by Romulus and Remus. 1. Romulus first king. 2. The peaceful Numa Pompilius. 3. The warlike Tullus Hostilius conquers Alba Longa. 4. Ancus Martius. 5. The wise Tarquinius Priscus. 6. Servius Tullius.
722. The kingdom of Israel, with Samaria the capital, destroyed (in the reign of Hosea) by Shalmaneser, king of Assyria. Isaiah prophecies in Judah. Destruction of Sennacherib's army before Jerusalem (715).
600. The New Babylonian empire founded on the ruins of the Assyrian by Nabopolassar. The city of

## B.C.

600. Tyre destroyed by his son Nebuchadnezzar, a contemporary of the Athenian legislator, Solon.
588. Destruction of the kingdom of Judah under its last king, Zedekiah. The prophet Jeremiah. Babylonian exile : The prophets Ezekiel and Daniel.
560. Croesus, king of Lydia. Pisistratus, tyrant of Athens. The seven wise men of Greece : Solon, Thales, Periander, Kleobulos, Pittakos, Bias, Cleilon.  
Æsop the fabulist. Pythagoras the Philosopher.

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 SECOND PERIOD.

B.C. 555—B.C. 333.

## FROM CYRUS TO ALEXANDER.

From the foundation of the second great empire to its overthrow by the third,—the Græco-Macedonian.—Rise of freedom and civilization in the West : their struggle against the power of the East in the Græco-Persian wars : Victory of Grecian culture, and its diffusion by means of Alexander's expedition.—Beginnings of the Roman power in Italy.—Renewal of the Israelitic state.—Western Asia and South-Eastern Europe form the main scene of events.

## B.C.

555. Cyrus, the founder of the Medo-Persian empire, conquers Cræsus, subdues Asia Minor and Ba-

## B.C.

555. Blyonia, and permits the Jews to return to Palestine (under Ezra and Nehemiah). Re-building of Jerusalem. Death of Cyrus (529). His son and successor Cambyses conquers Egypt, and reduces it to a satrapy of the Persian empire. Zoroaster, founder of the Persian religion (Zenda-vesta). Confucius, founder of the Chinese religion.
509. Expulsion of Tarquinius Superbus, the seventh and last king of Rome. Brutus and Collatinus, the first consuls. Porsenna and the Etruscans. Revolt of the Greeks of Asia Minor against the Persians.
493. Occupation of the Sacred mount by the Roman plebeians. Menenius Agrippa. Tribunes of the people.
490. Coriolanus, banished from Rome, takes refuge amongst the Volsci, and becomes the leader of an expedition against his native city, which is saved by the intervention of his mother. First war of the Persians and Hellenes. Darius Hystaspis conquered at Marathon by Miltiades the Athenian.
480. Second Græco-Persian war: Xerxes: Heroic death of Leonidas with 300 Spartans at Thermopylæ. Naval victory of Themistocles at Salamis. Aristides the Just.
479. Mardonius defeated by Pausanias and Aristides at the battle of Plateæ. Themistocles, banished from Athens, dies in Asia Minor. Cimon, the son

**B.C.**

479. of Miltiades, defeats the Persians at Eurymedon by sea and land. End of the Persian wars (466).
444. Pericles, orator and statesman, at the head of the Athenian republic, now at the height of its prosperity and importance. Phidias the sculptor. Herodotus, the father of history. The three great poets Æschylos, Sophokles, and Euripides. The painters Zeuxis and Parrhasius. In Rome, the decemvirs: laws of the twelve tables: Appius and Virginia.
431. Peloponnesian war in Greece betwixt Sparta, the head of the aristocratic (Dorian), and Athens, the head of the democratic (Ionian) states. Plague at Athens, and death of Pericles (429). Hippocrates.
404. End of the Peloponnesian war. Sparta is now the most powerful of the Grecian states. War betwixt Cyrus the younger, and his brother, Artaxerxes. Socrates condemned to swallow poison. His scholars Plato and Xenophon.
396. Agesilaus, king of Sparta, vanquishes the Persians in Asia Minor. Rome sacked by the Gauls under Brennus. Camillus, the conqueror of Veii, created dictator, and defeats the Gauls.
360. Philip II. king of Macedon. His Athenian opponent, the orator Demosthenes.
338. Battle of Chæronea. Philip master of Greece. Roman wars with the Samnites, ending in the subjection of the latter.

## THIRD PERIOD.

B.C. 333—B.C. 30.

## FROM ALEXANDER TO AUGUSTUS.

After a brief period of splendour, the Macedonian empire is rapidly dissolved. Meantime, the fourth great empire, the Roman, is gradually rising, until, mistress of the East as well as of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean, the history of the Roman state becomes the history of the known world.—Under the influence of internal corruption and violent political revolutions, the two triumvirates end in the establishment of the Empire.—Italy becomes the centre of the “*orbis terrarum*.”

B.C.

333. Alexander the Great, son of Philip II. of Macedon, founds the great Græco-Macedonian empire; crosses the Hellespont at the head of 35,000 men; gains three great victories over Darius Codomannus; subdues the Persian empire, and penetrates to India. Foundation of Alexandria in Egypt. His contemporaries Apelles, Aristotle, Diogenes, Zeno, Epicurus.
323. Alexander dies at Babylon. Out of the ruins of his vast empire, various smaller states are founded by his generals:—Seleucus in Syria; Ptolemy in Egypt. Translation of the Old Testament into Greek (Septuagint). Alexandria becomes the seat of Greek learning under the Ptolemies. Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, at war in

## B.C.

323. Italy with the Romans, who defeat him and subdue Tarentum, thereby establishing their dominion over all Lower Italy.
- 264 First Punic war (betwixt the Romans and the Carthaginians) arising principally out of disputes about Sicily. First naval victory of the Romans, under Duilius. Regulus in Africa, at first victorious, afterwards a prisoner.
- 218 Second Punic war. Setting out from Spain, to which had been subdued by his father, Hamilcar
201. Barcas, Hannibal, at the head of 59,000 men, enters on his Italian expedition: he defeats the Romans in four great battles, at the Ticinus, the Trebia, the Lake of Trasimene, and Cannæ. Fabius Maximus Cunctator, "the shield," and Marcus Marcellus, "the sword" of the Romans. Archimedes defends Syracuse against the latter. Hannibal in Capua.
202. Battle of Zama, in Africa, where Hannibal is defeated by P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus. Peace concluded following year.
200. Romans at war with Philip III. of Macedon: victory of Flaminius at Cynocephalæ. Roman war in Syria against Antiochus III. (the Great).
183. Death of Hannibal and of Scipio Africanus. Roman writers Polybius, Ennius, Plautus, Terence.
168. Battle of Pydna, where Æmilius Paulus defeats Perseus, king of Macedon. In Palestine the Maccabees head a Jewish revolt against Antiochus IV.

## B.C.

- 149 Third and last Punic war. Carthage destroyed to by P. Cornelius Scipio Africanus the younger.
146. Africa a Roman province. Corinth destroyed by Mummius. Greece a Roman province.
133. Popular disturbances in Rome instigated by the two brothers Tiberius and Caius Gracchus. Commencement of permanent civil discords (Agrarian law).
111. War against Jugurtha, king of Numidia, conducted, first by Metellus, afterwards by Marius and Sylla.
101. The Cimbri and Teutones defeated by Marius at Aquæ Sextiæ. Social war (90).
88. Civil war betwixt Marius and Sylla. Defeat by the latter of Mithridates, king of Pontus. Marius and Cinna in Rome. After their death Sylla's reign of terror. Complete reduction of Mithridates by Lucullus and Pompey. The servile war, which had broken out in Italy under Spartacus, extinguished by Pompey and Crassus.
63. Catiline's conspiracy: discovered and defeated by Marcus Tullius Cicero ("pater patriæ").
60. First triumvirate, formed by Cn. Pompey, C. J. Cæsar, and M. L. Crassus.
49. Outbreak of the civil war between Pompey and Cæsar: the latter crosses the Rubicon: Battle of Pharsalia (48): Pompey murdered in Egypt: Death of Cato the younger at Utica: Battle of Munda (45): Cæsar dictator: Aspires to the crown.

## B.C.

46. Julian Calendar : year of confusion.
44. Murder of Cæsar by Brutus, Cassius, and others.
43. Second triumvirate : M. Anthony, Octavian, and Lepidus. Battle of Philippi, and death of Brutus and Cassius.
31. Civil war between Anthony and Octavian. Battle of Actium. Anthony and Cleopatra die at Alexandria. Octavian sole ruler, under the name of Cæsar Octavianus Augustus. End of the Roman Republic and commencement of the Empire. Rome now a city containing about two millions of inhabitants. Mæcenas a statesman and patron of letters. Horace ; Virgil ; Ovid ; Cornelius Nepos. Golden age of Roman literature.

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 FOURTH PERIOD.

B.C. 30—A.D. 476.

## FROM AUGUSTUS TO ROMULUS AUGUSTULUS.

Embraces the history of the Roman Empire until its division into the Empires of the West and the East (Rome and Constantinople).—Conquest of Christianity over Heathenism.—Decline of Roman power and civilization.—The West is overpowered by the Teutonic nations, and the East again becomes Greek.—Commencement of the migrations from East to West.—Culture progresses towards the North.

## A.D.

- 1. Jesus Christ born at Bethlehem.
- 9. Varus defeated by Arminius (Hermann), leader of the Cherusians.
- 14. Augustus dies, and is succeeded by his step-son, Tiberius.
- 33. Crucifixion of our Saviour.
- 37. Caligula. Claudius (41). Commencement of Roman conquests in Britain.
- 54. Nero : First persecution of the Christians. Galba. Otho. Vitellius.
- 70. Destruction of Jerusalem by Titus. Roman war in Britain.
- 79. Titus Emperor. Eruption of Vesuvius : destruction of Herculaneum and Pompeii, and death of the elder Pliny. Britain subdued by Agricola : his son-in-law Tacitus the historian.
- 100. Trajan : the Roman empire at its greatest extent. Pliny the younger : Plutarch. Hadrian. Antoninus Pius. Marcus Aurelius Antoninus.
- 180. With Commodus begins a series of bad emperors, amongst whom is the infamous Heliogabalus, the priest of the sun. The Roman empire at its lowest pitch of internal corruption. A very few good emperors, as Septimius Severus, Alexander Severus, and Aurelian, the conqueror of Zenobia of Palmyra.

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\* See Introduction, § 18.

## A.D.

300. Tenth and last persecution of the Christians, under Diocletian and Galerius. Partition of the empire amongst joint rulers, under the titles of "Augusti" and "Cæsares." Abdication of Diocletian and Maximian (305).
333. Constantine I. (the Great), son of Constantius Chlorus, overcomes his five rivals, and obtains the sole mastery of the Roman empire. He makes Christianity the religion of the state, and removes the seat of government from Rome to Byzantium, thenceforth called Constantinople. Council of Nice (the first œcumenic council): condemnation of the Arians (325).
375. Commencement of the great migrations: the impulse given by the Huns (Mongols) in the East. The Goths cross the Danube, and gain a victory over the Emperor Valens at Adrianople. Translation of the Bible into Gothic by Ulfilas, bishop of the Goths.
395. Theodosius the Great divides the empire betwixt his two sons, Arcadius and Honorius, giving the Eastern (Thrace, Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt) to the former, and the Western (Italy, Africa, Gaul, Spain, and Britain) to the latter. Ambrose, bishop of Milan: his two celebrated scholars, Augustine and Chrysostom.
410. Rome plundered by Alaric the Visigoth. Carthage conquered (429); and Rome plundered a second time (455), by Genserich the Vandal. Vandal kingdom in Africa. Suevi and Visigoths in

## A.D.

410. Spain. Visigoths, Burgundians and Franks in Gaul. Saxons, Thuringians, and Alemanni in Germany.
450. Arrival in Britain of the Anglo-Saxons under Hengist and Horsa. Defeat of Attila, the Hun, at Chalons, by the Romans and the Visigoths (451).
476. Romulus Augustulus, the last Roman emperor of the West, dethroned by Odoacer, leader of the Heruli, who becomes king of Italy. End of the Western Roman Empire, and of the great migrations.

## MEDIEVAL HISTORY.

A.D. 476—1517.

Medieval history embraces a period of more than a thousand years, extending from the conquest of Teutonism over Romanism in the Western Empire, to the liberation of Northern Europe from the spiritual usurpation of Rome, by the Reformation. It exhibits the northern nations becoming permeated by the civilisation of Greece and Rome; their separation into Romanic and pure Teutonic nationalities; but at the same time the comprehension of both under the feudal and hierarchical systems,—the former represented and headed by the new German “Empire of the West,” and the latter by the waxing power of the papacy. Struggle betwixt these two powers. Central Europe becomes the main theatre of events.

### FIRST PERIOD.

A.D. 496—814.

#### FROM ODOACER TO THE DEATH OF CHARLEMAGNE.

End of the great migrations.—Rise of Mohammedanism in the East.—Foundation of the new Empire of the West.

A.D.

500. Theodoric the Great founds an Ostro-Gothic empire in Italy. Chlodovic, first a heathen

## A.D.

500. afterwards a convert to Christianity, founds a Frankish empire in Gaul.
555. Justinian I. Emperor of the East. Codification of the Roman law. By his generals, Belisarius and Narses, he overthrows the Vandal kingdom of Africa, and the Ostrogothic of Italy.
568. Upper Italy conquered by the Longobardi (Lombards), under Alboin. Pavia their capital. Ravenna and the Exarchate remain Greek.
600. Gregory I. (the Great) Pope. Conversion of the Anglo-Saxons.
622. Mohammed, "the prophet," founder of Islamism: converts and conquers Arabia: his doctrine contained in the Koran. His successors, the chalifs, great conquerors in Syria, Persia, Egypt, and Northern Africa.
711. Conquest of Spain by the Arabians: battle of Xeres, and death of Roderick the last of the Goths.
732. Charles Martel, the Frankish Mayor of the Palace, gains at Tours a great victory over the Arabs, which arrests their progress in Europe.
752. Pepin the Short, son of Charles Martel, deposes the last of the Merovingian "sluggard kings," the successors of Chlovis, and assumes the title of King of the Franks. Diffusion of Christianity in Germany by the labours of the English monk Winifred or Bonifacius.
768. Charlemagne, son of Pepin, chief founder of the great Frankish power. His empire extends
814. from the Eider to the Tiber, and from the Elbe

A.D.

814. to the Raab. His wars against the Lombards, Arabians, and Saxons. His care of the church, of schools, and of science.
800. Charlemagne crowned Roman Emperor, on Christmas-day, by Pope Leo III.(+814.) His contemporary the caliph Haroun-al-Raschid.

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 SECOND PERIOD.

A.D. 814—1096.

## FROM THE DEATH OF CHARLEMAGNE TO THE FIRST CRUSADE.

Struggles betwixt Christianity and Islamism in the East, and betwixt the ecclesiastical and secular powers in the West.—Commencement of the political preponderance of Germany in Europe.

A D.

814. Louis the Gentle (le Débonnaire) succeeds his father, Charlemagne: divides the empire with his sons: their rebellion and wars with each other.
843. Treaty of Verdun: division of the great Frankish empire. Lothaire receives the imperial title, Italy, and "Lorraine"; Charles (the Bald), France; and Louis (the German), the kingdom of Germany. The Grand Dukedom of Muscovy founded by Ruric.
871. Alfred the Great begins to reign in England (+901.)

A.D.

895. Rollo or Rolf sails up the Seine with a party of Norman pirates; establishes himself in Neustria, thenceforth called Normandy; and embraces Christianity.
919. Henry the Fowler, Emperor: he annexes Lorraine to the empire, and extends his dominion to the Oder.
987. Extinction of the Carolingian kings by the death of Louis V. Accession of Hugh Capet, Duke of Francia (whose dynasty reigns till 1328).
1000. Christianity now diffused over all Europe.
1017. Canute the Great begins his reign. England under Danish rule until 1041.
1024. Conrad II., first of the Franconian or Salic emperors of Germany.
1039. Henry III. Emperor. Imperial power at its height. He tries to reform ecclesiastical abuses. Expulsion of the Danes from England (1041).
1066. Norman invasion of England. Battle of Hastings.
1073. Gregory VI. (Hildebrand) elected Pope. His to disputes with the Emperor Henry IV., whom he
1085. excommunicates. He frees the church from subjection to temporal authority, and promulgates the law of clerical celibacy. At last Henry succeeds in deposing him (1084); and he dies in exile the following year.

## THIRD PERIOD.

A.D. 1096—1270.

## FROM THE FIRST TO THE SEVENTH CRUSADE.

This is the most brilliant and distinctive period in the history of the Middle Ages. In the crusades we have the coalition of the two great elements of mediæval life,—monachism and chivalry. In the contests of the House of Hohenstaufen with the Popes, we are presented with the second act of the great struggle between the civil and ecclesiastical powers, terminating in the victory of the latter.—Germany's political preponderance ends with the decay of the empire; the spiritual supremacy of Rome is established throughout Europe; but arts, science, and commerce flourish amongst the western nations.—The whole of Romanic and Teutonic Europe, together with a portion of Western Asia, is embraced in the theatre of events.

A.D.

1096 First crusade of the chivalry of Europe against to the Saracens in Syria and Palestine, incited by  
 1099. the preaching of Peter of Amiens, ordered by Pope Urban II., and led by Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lorraine. Some of the other leaders were Godfrey's brother Baldwin, afterwards king of Jerusalem, Raymond of Toulouse, Robert, Duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, and Tancred, the impersonation of chivalry. After the conquest of Jerusalem, Foun-

A.D.

1099. **datation of the orders of Knights Templars and Knights of St. John.**
1138. **Conrad III. (+1152) commences the series of German emperors of the Suabian house of Hohenstaufen : undertakes, along with Louis VII. of France, the second crusade (1147-1149). Bernard of Clairvaux. Abelard, the scholastic philosopher. Arnold of Brescia.**
1152. **Frederick I.(Barbarossa),the Great Hohenstaufen. His power and influence in Italy and Germany. His wars with the Lombard cities, and his contests with the Pope. Vanquished in the great battle of Legnano (1177), he is forced to an accommodation with the Pope, and to allow the Lombard cities the right of self-government.**
1155. **Henry II. of England, the first Plantagenet. Thomas à Becket.**
1190. **Third crusade, under Frederick Barbarossa, Philip Augustus of France, and Richard I. of England. Death of Barbarossa : truce with Saladin : death of the latter (1193), during Richard's captivity in Germany.**
1203. **Fourth crusade. Revolution at Constantinople.**
1215. **Magna Charta granted by John Lackland. Innocent III., the most powerful of all the Popes in the Middle Ages. The Inquisition in the hands of the Dominicans, who, with the Franciscans, are called the begging orders. St. Francis of Assisi. Albigenses and Waldenses.**

A.D.

- 1217 Fifth and sixth crusades,—the latter under the to Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick II. Genghis
1228. Khan establishes a great Mongolian empire, extending from China to Russia.
1241. Progress of the Mongols in Europe arrested by the battle of Wahlstatt, near Liegnitz. Commencement of the Hanseatic League. Troubadours : Minnesingers.
1250. Frederick II. dies, excommunicated by the Pope, deposed by the Council of Lyons, but fighting to the last. His death finishes the two hundred years' conflict betwixt the Church and the Empire : the former comes out victorious, and the latter falls into decay. Commencement of the great interregnum in Germany, which lasts till the election of Rodolph of Hapsburg.
1265. First regular House of Commons assembled in England by Simon de Montford.
1270. Seventh and last crusade under Louis IX. of France (St. Louis).

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 FOURTH PERIOD.

A.D. 1270—1517.

FROM THE TERMINATION OF THE CRUSADES TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REFORMATION.

This period exhibits the restoration of the German Empire in a more limited form than during the preceding period.—A gradual decay of the papal power, ending

in its total subversion in the northern countries of Europe.—Decline of feudalism, of the hierarchy, and of monarchism.—The German princes become politically and ecclesiastically independent of the empire; whereby the latter, losing its political unity, loses also its position as foremost of the European powers.—Flourishing condition of the cities in regard to commerce, industry, and the arts, until, by the discovery of America, trade is drawn away to the maritime towns.—A new direction given to the human mind by the invention of printing and the restoration of classical learning.

A.D.

1273. Rodolph of Hapsburg chosen emperor. The empire begins to recover from the confusion of the interregnum. Rodolph defeats Ottocar, King of Bohemia, deprives him of the Duchy of Austria, and confers it on his own son Albert.
1282. Insurrection of Sicilians against Charles of Anjou: "Sicilian vespers."
1305. Bertrand, Archbishop of Bordeaux, being elected Pope (Clement V.), removes the papal see to Avignon, where it remains for a period of seventy years, called by the Italians the "Seventy years' captivity."
1308. The Helvetic cantons of Schwytz, Uri, and Unterwalden revolt against Albert of Hapsburg, and lay the foundation of the Swiss confederation: Stauffacher, Fürst, Melchthal, William Tell. Their wars with Austria: battle of Morgarten (1315).
1356. The Golden Bull, settling the constitution of the

## A. D.

1356. **German Empire**, and vesting the choice of the emperor in the seven "Electors," issued by Charles IV. Battle of Poitiers: Edward, the Black Prince.
1386. Battle of Sempach gained by the Swiss.
1397. Union of Calmar: Succession of the three Scandinavian kingdoms, then ruled by Margaret, "the Semiramis of the North," settled on her grand-nephew.
1414. Council of Constance convened at the instance of the Emperor Sigismund. Burning of John Huss and of Jerome of Prague. Battle of Agincourt (1415), where Henry V. defeats a French army eight times as numerous as his own.
1429. Joan of Arc raises the siege of Orleans. Charles VII. crowned at Rheims. Council of Basle (1431).
1453. Constantinople taken by the Turks: end of the Eastern Roman Empire.
1455. The first printed book—a copy of the Vulgate—issues from the press: printed by John Gutenberg, John Fust, and Peter Schæffer. Wars of the Roses in England (1454–1484).
1477. Austria acquires Burgundy by the marriage of Maximilian with Mary, daughter and heiress of Charles the Rash. Louis XI. of France.
1492. Discovery of America by Columbus. Expulsion of the Moors from Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella.
1498. Discovery of sea-route to India, round the Cape of Good Hope, by Vasco de Gama, a Portuguese.

## MODERN HISTORY.

A.D. 1517—1859.

Modern History commences with the breaking up of the feudal system and of the Romish hierarchy.—The religious life which is the immediate product of the Reformation, by degrees becomes colder, and interests of a more secular sort acquire the ascendancy in politics.—The range of European influences is extended beyond the limits of the old world by the establishment of colonies in the new.—Meantime culture is progressive in Europe, especially towards the North and the East.—The Slavonic race begins to make a figure in history.—Germany continues to decline as a political power, and is split up into numerous sections with separate, and frequently opposing, interests.—The monarchical form of government attains its highest development, to be at length overthrown by revolution and afterwards partially restored, whilst the commons are continuously growing in education, intelligence, wealth, and political importance. Science, and the knowledge of classical antiquity, are progressive.

## FIRST PERIOD.

A.D. 1417—1648.

FROM THE REFORMATION TO THE PEACE OF WESTPHALIA.

Ecclesiastical separation of Northern (Protestant) from Southern (Catholic) Europe.—Embittered contest,

by sword and pen, of the two ecclesiastical and political parties.—Political preponderance of the House of Spain and Austria.—Religio-political character of the period.—Total dissolution of German unity into a number of petty states, composing a nominal Empire, and decline of its material prosperity in consequence of the altered direction given to commerce by the discovery of America, and of the route to India by the Cape of Good Hope.—England, in conflict with Spain, lays the foundation of her greatness by directing her energies to the attainment of maritime superiority; and, after becoming united with Scotland into one kingdom, passes through a period of domestic convulsion which results in a temporary overthrow of the monarchy.

A. D.

1517. Commencement of the Reformation; in Germany by Luther's 95 theses against indulgences; in Switzerland by Zwingle and Calvin. Leo. X. Henry VIII.
1521. Luther before the diet of Worms, presided over by Charles V. His imprisonment in the Wartburg. Translation of the Bible. Raphael.
1525. Battle of Pavia: Francis I. of France defeated and taken prisoner: "All is lost but honor."
1530. Diet of Augsburg. Melanchthon. Confession of Augsburg.
1531. Henry VIII. proclaimed supreme head of the English Church: suppresses the monasteries (1535).
1540. The order of the Jesuits founded by Ignatius Loyola. It becomes the most important engine for opposing the Reformation.

A.D.

1543. Copernicus of Thorn propounds a new system of astronomy.
1555. Religious peace of Augsburg : liberty of doctrine and worship guaranteed to German Protestants. Abdication of Charles V. severs connection between Spain and Germany. First *Index Expurgatorius* published by Paul IV.
1563. Church of England established on its present basis : thirty-nine articles. Dissolution of the Council of Trent (assembled originally 1545), and formal ratification of its decrees by Pope Pius IV.
1566. Revolt of the Netherlands : Cruelties of the Duke of Alva : Execution of Counts Egmont and Horn with 18,000 others : Foundation of the Republic of the Seven united Provinces, with William Prince of Orange (William the Silent) as Stattholder (1579).
1572. Paris massacre of St. Bartholomew.
1582. Pope Gregory XIII. reforms the calendar.
1587. Execution of Mary, Queen of Scots. Equipment of the Invincible Armada : its destruction (1588).
1589. Accession of the House of Bourbon in France : Henry IV. (Henry of Navarre) : Sully.
1598. Edict of Nantes (by which liberty of conscience guaranteed to the French Protestants) issued by Henry IV. Death of Philip II.
1603. Death of Queen Elizabeth : Accession of James I. unites the English and Scotch crowns. Shakespeare. Cervantes.

## A.D.

1613. Accession of the House of Romanoff in Russia.
1618. Outbreak of the thirty years' war. Elector Palatine defeated at Prague (1620), and placed under the ban of the empire. Tilly. Wallenstein.
1630. Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, takes the field in Germany as champion of the Protestant cause. Battle of Leipzig: the Swedes victorious: Tilly slain.
1632. Battle of Lützen: the Swedes victorious: Gustavus slain. Murder of Wallenstein (1634). France governed by Richelieu. Charles I. attempts to levy taxes in England without the consent of Parliament. Ship-money. Hampden.
1640. Assembling of the Long Parliament. Trial and execution of Laud and Strafford. Episcopacy abolished. Charles takes the field: battle of Edge-hill. Oliver Cromwell.
1647. Charles a prisoner. Dissolution of the Long Parliament by Cromwell (1648): King's trial and execution (1649).
1648. Peace of Westphalia (Treaties of Münster and Osnabrück). Religious freedom guaranteed to the Lutheran and Reformed Churches in all the German States. The Emperor's power restrained within still narrower limits, and Switzerland and the United Provinces formally recognised as independent republics.

## SECOND PERIOD.

A. D. 1648—1789.

FROM THE PEACE OF WESTPHALIA TO THE OUTBREAK OF  
THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

The interests of commerce become predominant in politics.—The monarchical form of government attains its culminating point, especially in France, now become the first power of the European continent.—Rise of Prussia and Russia in conflict with Sweden.—Austria engaged in hostilities with the Turks.—England and Holland become great naval powers.—The religious excitement of the first period gives place to laxity or “liberalism.”—The growth of revolutionary ideas in the British American Colonies forms a prelude to the overthrow of absolute monarchy in Europe.—Under Frederick the Great, Prussia becomes one of the great powers.

A. D.

1649. Cromwell protector in England. France governed by Cardinal Mazarin, Richelieu's successor. Wars of the Fronde.
1660. Restoration of the Stuarts. On the death of Mazarin, the actual exercise of government is assumed by Louis XIV., the “grand monarque,” with notions of absolute power: “L'état c'est moi.” Colbert, Turenne, Condé.
1683. Vienna, besieged by the Turks, is relieved by John Sobieski, king of Poland.

## A.D.

1685. Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV. Consequent emigration of French Protestants, who carry their arts and industry to England, Holland, and Germany.
1688. English revolution. Abdication of James II. William and Mary joint sovereigns.
1697. Peter the Great sets out on his travels. European tactics introduced into the Russian army by General Gordon.
1700. Commencement of the great northern war between Charles XII. and Peter the Great. Battle of Narva.
1701. The Elector of Brandenburg assumes the title of King of Prussia. Commencement of the war of the Spanish succession. Prince Eugene. Duke of Marlborough. Battles of Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1706), Malplaquet (1709).
1713. Treaty of Utrecht: Gibraltar, Minorca, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Hudson's Bay Territory, and St. Christopher's ceded to Great Britain.
1714. Queen Anne dies: accession of the House of Brunswick in the person of George, Elector of Hanover.
1715. Death of Louis XIV.: succeeded by his great-grandson, Louis XV.: Philip, Duke of Orleans regent. Rising in Scotland in favor of the exiled Stuarts.
1721. Peter the Great, hitherto Czar of Muscovy, assumes the title of "Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias." †1725.

- A.D.
1733. War of the Polish succession. Establishment of the Bourbons at Naples (1735). The Duke of Lorraine receives the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.
1740. Accession of Frederick II. (the Great) to the Prussian throne. War of the Austrian succession : Hungarian diet : "Moriatur pro rege nostro Maria Theresia."
1745. Rebellion in Scotland under Charles Edward. The Grand Duke of Tuscany chosen Emperor of Germany (Francis I.). Battle of Culloden (1746). Voltaire. Rousseau.
1752. New style adopted in Great Britain.
1756. Commencement of the seven years' war. William Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, minister in England. The French dispossessed in America (Wolfe), and in India (Clive).
1762. Catharine II. becomes Empress of Russia. Termination of the seven years' war. Britain retains Canada, Cape Breton, the islands and coasts of the St. Lawrence, and the territories on the left bank of the Mississippi.
1773. First partition of Poland. Suppression of the Jesuits by Clement XIV. (Ganganelli). Treaty of Kainardji between Russia and Turkey (1774), from which dates the great influence gained by the former state in the affairs of the latter. Warren Hastings Governor-general of India.
1775. Commencement of the War of Independence in the British North American Colonies : George Washington : Benjamin Franklin.

A. D.

1783. Conclusion of the American war. Great Britain acknowledges the independence of the colonies now forming the federal republic of the United States.

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### THIRD PERIOD.

A. D. 1789—1859.

FROM THE OUTBREAK OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO THE  
PRESENT DAY.

The first twenty-five years of this period (1785-1815) is a period of revolutionary ferment.—In France the monarchical form of government is overthrown, to make way for the anarchy and despotism of the revolution: the name of freedom is frightfully abused: great part of Europe is laid prostrate at the feet of a military adventurer, but at last rises and dethrones him.—Subsequently, we perceive the formation of constitutional governments on the European continent; the establishment of a system of political equilibrium under the five great powers, viz. England, Russia, France, Austria, and Prussia; a state of continued warfare betwixt conservatism and radicalism in church and state, along with agricultural, industrial, and commercial prosperity, especially in England.—The United States of America become a great republican power, and a constantly increasing stream of emigration sets in from the Old World to the New.

A. D.

1789. Convocation of the "States-General," which afterwards resolve themselves into the "Constituent Assembly." Necker, Mirabeau, Duke of Orleans. Bastille taken. National Guard: Lafayette. Abolition of nobility and titles. Emigration.
1790. France divided into departments. Crown lands and church property confiscated. Assignats.
1791. King's flight to Varennes. Legislative Assembly. Constitutional royalists: Girondists, Mountain, Jacobins, Guillotine.
1792. Storming of Tuilleries: King and Royal family sent as prisoners to the Temple: September massacres. National convention. Commencement of the revolutionary war. Battles of Valmy and Jemappes.
1793. King and Queen beheaded. Overthrow of the Girondists. Reign of terror. Revolutionary tribunal. Robespierre, Marat, Danton. Worship of reason. Revolutionary calendar. War declared by France against England, which forms alliances with and subsidizes the other continental powers. Second partition of Poland.
1794. Overthrow of Robespierre and the terrorists. Rising of the Poles under Kosciuzco.
1795. The Directory. Conquest of Holland by Pichegru. Batavian Republic. Third partition of Poland.
1796. Napoleon Bonaparte's Italian campaign: battle of Lodi: siege of Mantua: battles of Arcola and Rivoli.

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1797. Surrender of Mantua. Peace of Campo Formio. Dissolution of the Venetian, and formation of the Cisalpine and Ligurian republics.
1798. Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt. Battle of Aboukir : destruction of the French fleet by Nelson. Pope carried prisoner to France. Italy and Switzerland revolutionized.
1799. Second coalition against France. Austria and Russia take the field. Suwarrow's campaign in Italy. Bonaparte's return from Egypt. Overthrow of the Directory. Bonaparte first consul.
1800. Battle of Marengo, won by Bonaparte, and of Hohenlinden, won by Moreau.
1801. Peace of Luneville : whole left bank of Rhine ceded to France. Secularizations in Germany. Paul of Russia murdered, and succeeded by Alexander I.
1802. Peace of Amiens betwixt France and England.
1803. Renewal of hostilities betwixt France and England. Occupation of Hanover. Abolition of ecclesiastical sovereignties in Germany.
1804. Napoleon proclaimed Emperor of the French. Crowned the same year.
1805. Napoleon crowned King of Italy. Third coalition against France, composed of Great Britain, Austria, Russia, and Sweden. Ulm surrendered by General Mack. Battle of Austerlitz compels Austria to the peace of Pressburg. Battle of Trafalgar and death of Nelson.

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1806. Confederation of the Rhine. Dissolution of the German Empire. Francis renounces the title of Emperor of Germany, and assumes the new title of Emperor of Austria. Joseph Bonaparte is made King of Naples, and Louis Bonaparte King of Holland. Battle of Jena.
1807. Battles of Eylau and Friedland. Peace of Tilsit. Jerome Bonaparte King of Westphalia. Continental system. Bombardment of Copenhagen. Portugal occupied by the French: Portuguese court removes to Brazil.
1808. Napoleon's interview with Charles IV. and Ferdinand VII. at Bayonne. Joseph Bonaparte king of Spain. Murat king of Naples. Outbreak of the Spanish war: Wellesley (Wellington) victorious in Portugal. Congress of Erfurt.
1809. Austria renews hostilities against France. Battles of Eckmühl, Aspern, and Wagram. Rising of the Tyrolese under Hofer. Peace of Schönbrunn. Kingdom of Illyria ceded to France. Walcheren expedition. Battle of Talavera. Revolution in Sweden: Gustavus IV. deposed, and his uncle, Charles XII., chosen in his stead.
1810. Napoleon at the height of his power; his divorce from Josephine, and marriage with Maria Louisa, Arch-Duchess of Austria. The States of the Church, Holland, and Northern Germany united to the French empire. Bernadotte Crown Prince of Sweden. Wellington in Spain: lines of Torres Vedras: siege of Cadiz: Revolt of Spanish South American Colonies.

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1812. Napoleon's expedition against Russia : the Grand Army : Smolensk : battle of Borodino : Kutusow : burning of Moscow : Rostopschin : Napoleon forced to retreat : battle of Malo-Jaroslawitz : passage of the Beresina : annihilation of the Grand Army. Wellington in Spain : battle of Salamanca.
1813. Germany rises against Napoleon : liberation war : Austria and Sweden join the coalition : Schwarzenberg : Blücher. Battles of Dresden, Culm, and Leipzig. Dissolution of the Rhenish confederacy. Peace of Kiel : Norway ceded by Denmark to Sweden. Wellington gains the battle of Vittoria.
1814. The allies enter France : battles of La Rothière, Montmirail, Laon, and Arcis-sur-Aube : Paris taken : battle of Toulouse : Napoleon abdicates at Fontainebleau, and retires to Elba. First peace of Paris : France confined to her boundaries in 1792 : restoration of the Bourbons : Louis XVIII. : the Charter. Congress of Vienna : Austria receives an accession of territory in Italy.
1815. Kingdom of the Netherlands : Abolition of the slave trade. Constitution of Germany as a Confederation of thirty-eight states. Napoleon escapes from Elba and lands in France : the hundred days : battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo : Wellington, Blücher. Paris occupied by the allies. Second restoration of Louis XVIII.

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1815. Napoleon sent prisoner to St. Helena, where he dies in 1821. Holy alliance betwixt Austria, Russia, and Prussia.
1818. Congress of Aix-la-Chapelle : France joins the holy alliance.
1820. Revolutions in Spain, Portugal, Naples, and Piedmont. Congress of Troppau. Death of George III.
1821. Great insurrections in Moldavia, Wallachia, and the Morea. Revolution in Brazil : Don Pedro Emperor.
1822. Congress of Verona. Philhellenes : Lord Byron in Greece. Canning appointed foreign secretary on the death of Lord Londonderry.
1823. French intervention in Spain : absolutism restored there and in Portugal. Civil war in Greece.
1824. Death of Louis XVIII., and accession of his brother Charles X.
1825. Alexander, Emperor of Russia, dies at Taganrog. Commotions at St. Petersburg : accession of Nicholas.
1827. Intervention of England, France, and Russia in the affairs of Greece : battle of Navarino. Premiership and death of Canning.
1828. Duke of Wellington premier. Russian invasion of Turkey. Capo d'Istria, President of Greece : a French army in the Morea. Don Miguel usurps the throne of Portugal.
1829. The Russian Field-Marshal Diebitsch crosses the Balkan. Treaty of Adrianople. Independen-

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1829. dence of Greece recognized by Turkey. Catholic emancipation in England.
1830. Accession of William IV. Algiers taken by the French. July revolution at Paris: abdication of Charles X.: Duke of Orleans called to the throne, by the title of Louis Philippe King of the French. Belgian and Polish revolutions.
1831. The cholera appears in Europe. Polish insurrection suppressed, and the kingdom of Poland incorporated with the Russian empire. London conferences: Leopold of Saxe-Coburg chosen King of Belgium.
1832. Civil war in Portugal betwixt Pedro and Miguel. The French occupy Ancona, and lay siege to Antwerp. Parliamentary reform in England.
1833. Meeting of the first reformed Parliament. Abolition of slavery in the British colonies, with a compensation of £20,000,000 to the slave-owners.
1834. Don Miguel expelled from Portugal. Civil war in Spain. Formation of the German Zollverein.
1837. Accession of Queen Victoria. Insurrection in Canada.
1839. Treaty of peace betwixt Holland and Belgium. End of the civil war in Spain.
1840. Intervention of England and Austria in the Egyptian question. Thiers minister in France: apprehensions of a general war: removed by the overthrow of Thiers: Guizot minister.
1841. Resignation of Melbourne ministry. Peel becomes premier. Death of Lord Sydenham in Canada. Fortification of Paris.

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1842. Afghan and Chinese wars: cession of Hong Kong to England: opening of Chinese ports. Rising against the English at Cabul: murder of Burnes and McNaughten: massacre at the Cabul Pass. Ashburton Treaty with the United States. Great fire at Hamburg.
1843. Activity of the Anti-Corn Law League. John Bright returned for Durham. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visit the King of the French and the King of the Belgians. Repeal meetings in Ireland stopped by royal proclamation, and Mr. O'Connell and other repealers arrested and tried for conspiracy and sedition.
1844. French hostilities with Morocco: Mogadore bombarded: King of the French visits Queen Victoria at Windsor. Railway mania in England.
1845. Continued activity of the Anti-Corn Law League. Great bazaar at London, where the receipts amount to £25,000. Railway mania in England attains its height: scrip issued to the nominal amount of several hundred millions sterling. Annexation of Texas to the United States. Steam established between Liverpool and New York.
1846. The Spanish double marriages. Coolness betwixt the courts of St. James and the Tuilleries. Abolition of the Corn Laws, followed by resignation of the Peel ministry. Austria, in violation of the treaties of Vienna, seizes on Cracow, and incorporates it with her own dominions. Louis

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1846. Napoleon escapes from the Castle of Ham, in Normandy. Gregory XVI. dies, and is succeeded by Cardinal Mastai Ferretti, who takes the title of Pius IX.
1847. Pope Pius introduces some reforms into the Papal States: excitement in the rest of Italy. Civil war in Switzerland: Sonderbund suppressed. Abd el Kader taken prisoner. The Duchy of Lucca reverts to Tuscany.
1848. Upper California and New Mexico ceded to the United States. February revolution in Paris: flight of Louis Philippe: France a Republic: Cavaignac: Louis Napoleon President. Revolutions at Vienna and Berlin. Schleswig-Holstein insurrection.
1849. Revolutions in Rome and Tuscany: Mazzini: French invasion and occupation of Rome. Revolutionary movements in Germany and Hungary. Kossuth. Revolution in Baden suppressed by Prussia; in Hungary by Russia.
1850. Battle of Idstedt and suppression of the Schleswig Holstein insurrection. Peace between Denmark and Prussia.
1851. Great industrial exhibition in London. French coup d'état: National Assembly broken up, and Napoleon declared President of the Republic for ten years. Discovery of gold fields in Australia.
1852. The Earl of Derby forms a protectionist ministry, dissolves parliament, but is soon forced to

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1852. resign : Lord Aberdeen becomes Premier. Louis Napoleon proclaimed Emperor of the French, as Napoleon III.
1853. Russia invades the Danubian principalities ; destroys Turkish fleet at Sinope.
1854. Great Britain and France declare war against Russia. Landing of the allies at Varna : they invade the Crimea. Battles of Alma, Balaklava, Inkermann. Siege of Sebastopol.
1855. Sardinia joins the allies : south side of Sebastopol taken : Russia proposes peace. Treaty of peace signed at Paris the following year.