

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF
UNIVERSAL HISTORY

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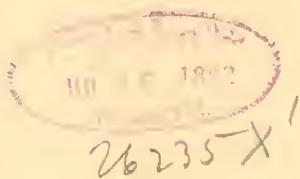
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A
CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE
OF
UNIVERSAL HISTORY

EXTENDING FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES
TO THE YEAR 1892

FOR THE USE OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND READERS

BY
LOUIS HEILPRIN
"



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P R E F A C E.

REMARKS CONCERNING THE PLAN OF THE WORK.

It will be seen that the plan adopted in the present work has been to deal separately with the events of different countries. The events in any one year are not arranged all in chronological order, but each state is introduced independently. Several countries are, of course, grouped together in one division whenever the connection of events demands. In the history of the Middle Ages and of modern times down to the American Revolution the first place, as a rule, is accorded to the British Isles. France follows, and next in order come the countries of central Europe and Italy and Spain, after which the remaining states of Europe are introduced. The political history of the whole of the Old World is given before that of the New. From the time of the American Revolution the first place is assigned to the United States, the order otherwise remaining in the main as before. It has been deemed proper to present the history of Europe in the year 1848 in a connected sketch. Events not political are always left to the end. The names in the obituary lines are arranged in chronological order.

CHRONOLOGICAL ACCURACY.

A comparison of the dates in this book with those in any ordinary work of reference will reveal a great amount of discrepancy. It is little understood to what an extent encyclopedic publications contradict each other in the matter of dates. Uniform accuracy is seldom achieved, owing to the amount of labor involved and the readiness to accept dates on the part of compilers, who are little apt to be on their guard

where no special reason for doubt is present. Even able and conscientious historians will often slip into chronological errors. It will frequently happen that where the concurrent statements in several reference-books appear to leave no doubt whatever concerning the date of a particular historical event, a grave error will result from relying on the testimony.

An experience of many years in the editorial department of the "American Cyclopædia" charged with the verification of historical and biographical dates, has taught the compiler of the present work the lesson of mistrust and caution. A few examples may serve to give the reader an idea of the singular pitfalls which beset the path of the chronologist, and of the confusion and contradiction which he constantly encounters.

The date of the capture of Prague by the forces of France and her allies in the War of the Austrian Succession is Nov. 26, 1741. In the compendious "Encyclopædia of Chronology" of Woodward and Cates (London, 1872), under PRAGUE, we are informed that the event took place Oct. 26, 1742, and we meet with the same date in the article on that city in the fourth edition of "Pierer's Universal-Lexikon."* In this latter work, in the article ÖSTERREICHISCHER ERBFOLGESKRIEG, the event is mentioned in the account of the operations of 1741, but we still find Oct. 26 instead of Nov. 26, and, to remove all doubt from the mind of the perplexed student, there immediately follows the statement that on Oct. 27 the elector of Bavaria entered the captured city.† In William Coxe's standard "History of the House of Austria" (1807) the event is likewise placed a month too early. In "Oesterreich unter Maria Theresia," &c. (Berlin 1882-'4), forming part of Wilhelm Oncken's great historical collection, "Allgemeine Geschichte in Einzeldarstellungen," the city is stated to have fallen in the night of Dec. 5-6. Oncken's own work in the same collection, "Das Zeitalter Friedrich's des Grossen," gives

* The correct date is given in the sixth edition.

† The dates do not occur in the corresponding article (greatly condensed) in the last edition of the "Universal-Lexikon."

the correct date. Under the head of BELLEISLE in the "Encyclopædia of Chronology" both month and year are correctly stated.

In 1800 a conspiracy was formed against the life of Bonaparte by Ceracchi, Aréna, and others. The First Consul was to be assassinated Oct. 10. The plot was betrayed, and on that day the conspirators were seized, and they were executed Jan. 30, 1801. The "Encyclopædia of Chronology," under the head of CERACCHI, gives as the respective dates Oct. 10, 1801, and Feb. 10, 1802. In the voluminous "Dictionnaire encyclopédique de l'histoire de France," edited by Le Bas, the article on Aréna informs us that he engaged in the plot of Oct. 10, 1801, and that he was executed Jan. 30, 1802. Dr. Thomas, in his excellent "Dictionary of Biography," both in the notice of Ceracchi and in that of Aréna, has likewise slipped into the error of stating that they met their death in 1802. We also find 1802 in the article on Aréna in the fourth edition of the "Universal-Lexikon."*

Garibaldi's victory over the Neapolitan forces at Velletri was achieved May 19, 1849. Instead of May 19 we find March 19 (in each case under the head of VELLETRI) in the "Encyclopædia of Chronology," in the twelfth edition of "Brockhaus' Conversations-Lexikon" (1879), and in "Beeck's Handlexikon der Geschichte und Biographie" (Berlin, 1881), a chronological manual remarkable for accuracy. This case is a curious instance of false concurrent testimony with regard to the date of an event near to our own time.

The capture of Jefferson Davis took place on the morning of May 10, 1865. May 11 is the date given in Greeley's "American Conflict," in Lossing's "History of the Civil War," in "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates" (under the head of UNITED STATES), and in "Unsere Zeit" (a supplement to "Brockhaus' Conversations-Lexikon"). In Oscar Jäger's supplement to Schlosser's "Weltgeschichte" we have May 13, and we find the same error in the notice of Davis in the thirteenth edition of "Brockhaus' Conversations-Lexikon" (1883).

* The error does not occur in the last edition.

The utmost confusion prevails in books respecting dates in the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth, resulting from the circumstance that the Gregorian calendar was adopted at different times by different countries.* It has been customary with historians down to our own time to retain the Old Style in treating the history of a Protestant country in the period before the adoption of the New Style in that country, but there is no uniformity in this respect, the New Style being very frequently used. The dates of events of an international character (battles, treaties), events belonging at once to the history of a Protestant and a Catholic country, are given according to the Old Style by one writer and by another according to the New. In treating of the wars between the English and the French in the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth, the French historians will follow the Gregorian calendar, the English to a great extent the Julian. The same writer will not unfrequently use the Old Style in one place and the New in another. The case grows worse when we come to encyclopedic publications, in whose preparation different authorities are consulted at every step. The individual statements in any one work will frequently be found to contradict each other. Let us take some of the principal events in the Thirty Years' War, and examine the

* The reformation of the calendar instituted by Pope Gregory XIII. in 1582 consists in amending the Julian calendar by reducing the number of leap years in 400 years from 100 to 97, the centurial years being made ordinary years except those whose numbers are divisible by 400 (1700, 1800, 1900, 2100, etc., being ordinary years, and 1600, 2000, 2400, etc., leap years). The reckoning, according to the Julian calendar, or Old Style, thus drops back 3 days in 400 years behind the New Style. Gregory XIII. directed that ten days be dropped out of the year 1582 (Oct. 5 was made Oct. 15), so as to bring back the vernal equinox to where it had been at the time of the council of Nice (325), it having retrograded to March 11. The difference between Old and New Style remained 10 days down to 1700 (1600 having been retained as a leap year); from 1700 to 1800 it was 11 days; since 1800 it has been 12 days; from 1900 to 2100 it will be 13 days. The Gregorian calendar was at once or soon adopted by the Catholic countries, but the Protestant states continued long to adhere to the Julian calendar. In the Protestant states of Germany, in Denmark, and in the greater part of Holland, the change from Old to New Style was made in 1700; in Great Britain, in 1752; in Sweden, in 1753. Russia has retained the Old Style to the present day.

chronological statements in various works. The date of the storming of Magdeburg in the "Encyclopædia of Chronology" is given (under the head of **MAGDEBURG**) according to the New Style, May 20, 1631; in "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates," according to the Old, May 10. The battle of Leipsic (under the head of **LEIPSIK**) is given in both according to the Old Style, Sept. 7, 1631, and each gives the battle of Lützen (under the head of **LÜTZEN**) according to the New, Nov. 16, 1632. In the notice of General Pappenheim the "Encyclopædia of Chronology" gives Nov. 6 as the date of the latter battle. In the "Encyclopædia of Chronology" the battle of Wittstock is stated to have been fought Oct. 4, 1636 (the date according to the New Style) under the head of **WITTSTOCK**, and Sept. 24 under the head of **BANNIER** (*Banér*). The writer of the article **AUSTRIA** in the last edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" gives the capture of Magdeburg and the battles of Lützen and Wittstock according to the New Style, but the battle of Leipsic according to the Old. In Weber's universal history we have the Old Style for the battles of Leipsic and Lützen, and the New for the battle of Nördlingen (Aug. 27-Sept. 6, 1634) and that of Wittstock. It will occasionally happen that writers who use the New Style will fall into the ludicrous error of adding 10 (11) days to a date already converted to the New Style. In the article on the Thirty Years' War in the very valuable "Encyklopädie der neueren Geschichte" (Gotha, 1880-'84) the writer, who uses the New Style, gives March 16, 1629, as the date of publication of the Edict of Restitution, which, however, was dated March 6 according to the Gregorian calendar, and in like manner he states that the battle of Wittstock was fought Oct. 14, 1636, when in reality the true date is Oct. 4, New Style (Old Style, Sept. 24), which date is given in the same work in the article **BANER**.

Another source of perplexity to the chronologist, more especially in dealing with biographical dates, arises from the circumstance that the time of the beginning of the Christian year has been variously placed at different periods and in different countries, so that it frequently happens that an event described as having taken place in a particular year by a contemporary writer

actually falls in a different year according to modern chronological reckoning.*

Two cases will here be presented in which there is a bewildering confusion in books due to the cause here indicated. The first is the date of the accession of the house of Stuart to the throne of Scotland in the person of Robert II., who was proclaimed king Feb. 22, 1371 (according to the old mode of reckoning, 1370), on the death of David Bruce. Let us first open the "Encyclopædia of Chronology." Under the head of SCOTLAND and under ROBERT II. we find the date correctly stated. In the notice of David Bruce, however, that monarch is stated to have died Feb. 22, 1370. In Margaret Macarthur's "History of Scotland," which forms part of Freeman's "Historical Series," we likewise find 1370. The same error appears three times in Hermann's "Lexikon der allgemeinen Weltgeschichte" (1882), under BRUCE, SCHOTTLAND, and STUART, and twice in "Brockhaus' Conversations-Lexikon" (twelfth edition), in the articles SCHOTTLAND and STUART. "Pierer's Universal-Lexikon" (sixth edition) gives 1371 in the article SCHOTTLAND and 1370 under STUART. The second case is the date of the institution of the Order of the Golden Fleece by Philip the Good, duke of Burgundy, on the occasion of his nuptials with Isabella of Portugal. The event took place in the town of Bruges Jan. 10, 1430, or, according to the old mode of reckoning, 1429, the year having to run on till Easter. We find the wrong year 1429 in Beeck's "Handlexikon der Geschichte und Biographie," in "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates," in Hermann's "Lexikon der allgemeinen Weltgeschichte" (in the notice of Philip the Good), and in the sixth edition of "Pierer's Universal-Lexikon" (in the article on the Golden Fleece and in that on Philip the Good). The "Encyclopædia of

* In England the year formerly began with the 25th of March. It was not until 1752 that the first of January was made the beginning of the legal year. In parts of Italy, likewise, the first day of the year was the 25th of March down to the close of the last century, and the Pisan reckoning was a year ahead of the Florentine. In the Venetian Republic it was the first day of March. In France during the period of the Capetian and Valois dynasties the year began with Easter. The duchy of Burgundy and portions of the Netherlands had the same reckoning.

Chronology" gives Jan. 10, 1429 (citing an authority) under the head of GOLDEN FLEECE, and in the notice of Philip his marriage is stated to have taken place on that day, but under the head of BRUGES we are correctly informed that the Order of the Golden Fleece was instituted in 1430.

Chronological inaccuracy in books is in no small measure merely the evidence of faulty printing. In the present work the proof-reading has been so carefully done that the author feels assured that this source of error has been completely eliminated.

L. II.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY.

B. C.

- 4400** (*about; Brugsch*).^{*} Foundation of the first dynasty in Egypt.
- 3700** (*about; Brugsch*). Erection of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh.
- 2500** (*about; Duncker*). Rise of the kingdom of Elam.
- 2200-1700** (*about; Brugsch*). Dominion of the Hyksos in Egypt.
- 1700** (*1600*)-**1250** (*about*). Period of the greatest power and splendor of the New Empire in Egypt. Aahmes, Thothmes III., Rameses II., Rameses III. (Meneptah, about 1320, generally considered by Egyptologists the Pharaoh of the Exodus.)
- 1500** (*about; ?*). Babylonia is united into a single powerful monarchy.
- 1450-1300** (*about; Duncker*). Period of the greatest power of the Hittite realm in Syria.
- 1300** (*about*). Reign of Shalmaneser I. in Assyria.
- 1250** (*about; Duncker*). The Phœnicians enter upon their career as a great colonizing people.
- 1100** (*about*). Dorian migration into the Peloponnesus.
- 1055** (*about, Duncker; about 1095 or 1080, common chronology*).[†] Establishment of monarchy by the Hebrews; Saul king.
- 1033** (*about, Duncker; 1058, Oppert*). The Philistines overwhelm Saul at Gilboa. David proclaims himself king in Judah.
- 993** (*about, Duncker; 1017, Oppert*). Accession of Solomon.
- 953** (*about, Duncker; 977, Oppert*). Revolt of the Ten Tribes under Jeroboam from Rehoboam; Israel and Judah separate kingdoms.
- 949** (*about, Duncker; 973, Oppert*). Sheshonk (Shishak), king of Egypt, takes Jerusalem.
- 929** (*about, Duncker; 958, Oppert*). Accession of Asa in Judah.
- 899** (*about, Duncker; 931, Oppert*). Accession of Omri in Israel.
- 873** (*about, Duncker; 917, Oppert*). Accession of Jehoshaphat in Judah.

^{*} The views of other authorities will be found stated in the Appendix.

[†] See HEBREWS in the Appendix.

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