

ended in the 138th year of the christian era*. It had consequently commenced in the 1322d before Christ, and that which preceded it in the 2782d. In fact, the calculations of M. Ideler shew, that Sirius was heliacally risen on the 20th July of the Julian year 139, a day which corresponded that year to the first of Thot, or the first day of the Egyptian sacred year †.

But not only is the position of the sun, with relation to the stars of the ecliptic, or the sidereal year different from the tropical year, on account of the precession of the equinoxes. The heliacal year of a star, or the period of its heliacal rising, especially when it is distant from the ecliptic, differs still from the sidereal year, and differs in various degrees according to the latitudes of the places where it is observed. What is very singular, however, and the observation has already been made by Bainbridge ‡ and Father Petau §, it happens, by a remarkable concurrence

* The whole of this system is developed by Censorinus, De Die Natali, cap. xviii. and xxi.

† Ideler. Historical Researches regarding the Astronomical Observations of the Ancients. M. Halma's translation, at the end of his Canon de Ptolomée, p. 32. *et seq.*

‡ Bainbridge, Canicul.

§ Petau, Var. Dios. lib. v. cap. vi. p. 108.—Also, La Nanze, Acad. de Bell. Lett. t. xiv. p. 346.