

have deigned to avail himself of any of the observations of the Egyptians? \*

Farther, Herodotus, who lived so long with them, says nothing of those six hours which they added to the sacred year, nor of that great Sothian period which resulted. On the contrary, he says expressly that the Egyptians, making their year of 365 days, the seasons returned to the same point, so that in his time the necessity of this quarter of a day does not appear to have been suspected. † Thalles, who had visited the priests of Egypt, less than a century before Herodotus, did not, in like manner, make known to his countrymen, any other than a year of 365 days only. ‡ And, if we reflect that all the colonies which migrated from Egypt, fourteen or fifteen centuries before Christ, the Jews and the Athenians, carried with them the lunar year, it will perhaps be inferred that the year of 365 days itself had not existed in Egypt in these remote ages.

I am aware that Macrobius § gives the Egyptians a solar year of  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days; but this author,

\* See the Preliminary Discourse of the History of the Astronomy of the Middle Age, by M. Delambre, p. viii. et seq.

† Euterpe, chap. iv. ‡ Diog. Laert, lib. i. in Thalet.

§ Saturnal. lib. i. cap. xv.