

lected from among those of their lunar houses, for reasons which it is impossible at the present day to determine*? The absurdity which there would have been in preserving for the constellations, during 15,000 years, figures and symbolical names which no longer presented any relation with their position, would have been more evident had it been carried so far as to preserve to the months those same names which were incessantly in the mouths of the people, and whose inaptitude would be every moment perceived.

And what, besides, would all these systems come to, had the figures and the names of the zodiacal constellations been given to them without any relation to the course of the sun; as their inequality, the extension of several of them beyond the zodiac, and their manifest connection with the neighbouring constellations, seem to demonstrate was the case †.

What would still happen, if, as Macrobius expressly says ‡, each sign must have been an em-

* See the Memoir of Sir William Jones on the Antiquity of the Indian Zodiac. Calcutta Memoirs, vol. ii.

† See the Zodiac explained, or Researches regarding the Origin and Signification of the Constellations of the Greek Sphere, translated from the Swedish of M. Swartz; Paris, 1809.

‡ Saturnalia, lib. i. cap. xxi. sub. fin. *Nec solus Leo,*