

We shall also perhaps conclude, that men capable of such accurate observations, and who made them for so long a period, would not have assigned so much importance as to worship him; for they would have seen that the coincidence of his rising with the tropical year, and the inundation of the Nile are only temporary, and only took place in a determinate latitude. In fact, according to the calculations of M. Ideler, 2782 years before Christ, Sirius appeared in Upper Egypt, the second day after the Solstice; in 1322, the thirteenth; and in one hundred and thirty-nine after Christ, the twenty-sixth.(1)

At the present day it does not rise heliacally till more than a month after the solstice. The Egyptians would have had a decided preference in finding an epoch which would afford a coincidence between the commencement of the sacred year, with that of the actual tropical year; and then they would discover that their great period should be 1508 sacred years, and not 1461.(2) We certainly do not find any trace of this period of 1508 years in antiquity.

Can we, generally speaking, defend ourselves with the idea that if the Egyptians had such long series of observations, and exact observations, their disciple Eudoxus, who studied amongst them for thirteen years, would have carried a more perfect system of astronomy, maps of the heavens less inaccurate, and even congruous in their different parts?(3)

(1) Ideler, loc. cit. p. 38.

(2) See Laplace, *Système du Monde*, 3rd edit. p. 17, and *Annuaire* of 1818.

(3) See M. Delambre, on the inaccuracy of the determina-