

CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF THE TABLE.

“The longitude of the stars for 1800, have been taken from the Berlin Tables, as calculated by Lacaille, Bradley, or Flamstead.

“The first and last of each constellation, and some of the most brilliant intermediate stars have been taken. The third column indicates the year when the longitude of the star was 0; that is, the year when the star was in the equinoctial colure of spring. The last column marks the year when the star was in the solstitial colure, either of winter or summer.

“For the Ram, the Bull and the Twins, the winter solstice has been chosen; for the other constellations, the summer solstice has been chosen, that the extreme might be avoided of going too remotely into antiquity, or approaching too closely to modern times. Besides, it will be easy to find the opposite solstice, by adding the semi-period of 12,960 years. The same rule applies for finding the time when a star has been or will be at the autumnal equinox.

“The sign — indicates the years before our era; the sign + the year of our era; and the last line at the end of each sign under the name of ‘Duration,’ gives the extent of the constellation in degrees, and the time that the equinox or the solstice employs in traversing the constellation from one end to the other.

“Fifty seconds per annum have been taken as the precession, as it is given by a comparison of the catalogue of Hipparchus with modern cata-