

that in time these chimeras, more or less brilliant, may not be relished.

“I have endeavoured to determine the extent of the constellations after the catasterisms of the false Eratosthenes. The thing is really impossible. It would be still worse if Hyginus, and particularly Firmicus, are consulted. I subjoin what I have extracted from Eratosthenes.

Constellations.	Duration.	
Aries	1747 Years.	
Taurus	1826	
Gemini	1636	
Cancer	1204	
Leo	2617	
Virgo	3307	
The Talons	1089*
Scorpio	1823	
Sagittarius	2138	
Capricornus	1416	
Aquarius	1196	
Pisces	2936	

“As to the Chaldeans, Egyptians, Chinese, and Indians, we must not think of them. We can, in fact, get nothing from them. My opinion is expressed in the preliminary discourse of my *History of the Astronomy of the Middle Age*, pp. 17 and 18.

* Eratosthenes makes only one constellation of Scorpio and the Talons. He makes the commencement of the latter without fixing the end; and, as he gives 1823 years to Scorpio, properly so called, there would remain 1089 years for the Talons, supposing that there was no space between the two constellations.