

Mr Hamilton \* having remarked, that, at Dendera, the Scarabæus belonging to the side of the ascending signs is smaller than that of the other side, an English author † has concluded from this that the solstice may have been nearer its actual point than the middle of the Cancer, which would carry us back to a period of 1000 or 1200 years before Christ.

The late M. Nouet, judging that the globe, the rays, and the horned head, or head of Isis, represent the heliacal rising of Sirius, supposed that it was intended to mark an epoch of the Sothian period, but that it was intended to mark it by the place which the solstice occupied. Now, in the last but one of these periods, that which elapsed between 2782 and 1322 before Christ, the solstice had passed from  $30^{\circ} 48'$  of the constellation of the Lion to  $13^{\circ} 34'$  of Cancer. At the middle of this period, it was therefore at  $23^{\circ} 34'$  of cancer. The heliacal rising of Sirius happened then some days after the solstice; and this is nearly what has been indicated, according to M. Nouet, by the re-

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\* *Ægyptiaca*, p. 212.

† See in the British Review of February 1817, p. 13. *et seq.* the article No. vi. upon the origin and antiquity of the zodiac. It is translated at the end of Swartz's *Critical Letter upon the Zodiacomania*.