

retrogaded to the commencement of the preceding sign.

It seems probable enough that the builders of a temple would have wished to indicate as nearly as possible in what period of the great year, or sothaic year, it was erected; and the indication of the sign which then commenced the sacred year, was the best possible means of effecting this. We should thus find that one hundred and twenty or one hundred and fifty years had elapsed between the building of the temple at Esne, and that at Dendera.

But, by this view of the case, it still remained to be determined, in which of the great years these erections took place; in that which finished one hundred and thirty-eight years after; or in that which terminated 1322 years before Christ, or in some other.

Visconti, the author of this hypothesis, taking the sacred year, whose commencement corresponded with the sign of Leo, and judging from the similarity of these signs, that they had been represented at an epoch when the opinions of the Greeks were not unknown in Egypt, could only choose the end of the last great year, or the space that elapsed between the year twelve, and the year one hundred and thirty-eight after Christ,(1) which seemed to him to agree with the Greek inscription, of which however he knew but little, but had heard that it made some mention of one of the Cæsars.

M. Testa, seeking the dates of the monument by another train of reasoning, supposed, that as Virgo is at Esne at the head of the zodiac, it was intended to depict the era of the battle of Actium, as it was

(1) Translation of Herodotus, by Larcher, v. ii. p. 570.