

sion to preserve their influence on the opinions of many persons.

THE ZODIAC IS FAR FROM BEARING IN ITSELF AN ASSURED AND VERY REMOTE DATE.

But there are writers who have asserted that the zodiac bears in itself the date of its invention, in as much as the names and the figures given to its constellations are an index to the position of the colures at the time of its invention; and this date, according to many, is so evident, and so remote, that it becomes a matter of indifference whether the representations which we possess of this circle are more or less ancient.

They pay no attention to the fact of this sort of argument involving in itself three suppositions equally uncertain. The country in which they admit that the zodiac was invented; the meaning which is supposed to have been given to the constellations which occupy it; and the position in which the colures were, relative to each constellation, when this meaning was given to it.

By the explanation given to other allegories, or as these allegories are allowed to have relation to the constellation of which the sun occupied the first degrees, or to that of which it occupied the middle, or to that which it was on the point of entering; that is to say, of which it occupied the last degrees, or finally to that which was opposite to it, and which rose in the evening; or, according as the invention of these allegories was assigned to another climate, so must we change the date of the zodiac. The possible variations in this respect may include as much as half