

he, the teacher of arts to the earliest race of men, was the communicator.

Thus, for instance, the rising⁸ of the Pleiades in the evening was a mark of the approach of winter. The rising of the waters of the Nile in Egypt coincided with the heliacal rising of Sirius, which star the Egyptians called Sothis. Even without any artificial measure of time or position, it was not difficult to carry observations of this kind to such a degree of accuracy as to learn from them the number of days which compose the year; and to fix the precise season from the appearance of the stars.

A knowledge concerning the stars appears to have been first cultivated with the last-mentioned view, and makes its first appearance in literature with this for its object. Thus Hesiod directs the husbandman when to reap by the rising, and when to plough by the setting of the Pleiades.⁹ In like manner Sirius,¹⁰ Arcturus,¹¹ the Hyades and Orion,¹² are noticed.

⁸ Ideler (Chronol. i. 242) says that *this* rising of the Pleiades took place at a time of the year which corresponds to our 11th May, and the setting to the 20th October; but this does not agree with the forty days of their being "concealed," which, from the context, must mean, I conceive, the interval between their setting and rising. Pliny, however, says, "Vergiliarum exortu æstas incipit, occasu hiems; *semestri* spatio intra se messes vindemiasque et omnium maturitatem complexæ." (H. N. xviii. 69.)

The autumn of the Greeks, *ὀπώρα*, was earlier than our autumn, for Homer calls Sirius *ἀστὴρ ὀπωρινός*, which rose at the end of July.

⁹ Πληιάδων Ἀτλαγενέων ἐπιτελλομενάων.
Ἀρχεσθ' ἀμητοῦ ἀρότοιό δέ, δυσσομενάων.
Ἄξ δὴ τοι νύκτας τε καὶ ἡμέατα τεσσαράκοντα
Κεκρύφαται, αὐτὶς δὲ περιπλομένου ἐνιαυτοῦ
Φαίνονται. *Op. et Dies*, l. 881.

¹⁰ *Ib.* l. 418.

¹¹ Ἐὖτ' ἂν δ' ἐξήκοντα μετὰ τροπῆς ἡελλοιο
Χειμέρι', ἐκτελέσῃ Ζεὺς ἡμέατα, δὴ βὰ τότ' ἀστὴρ
Ἀρκτοῦρος, προλιπὼν ἱερὸν ῥέον Ὀκεανοῖο
Πρῶτον παμφαίνων ἐπιτέλλεται ἀκροκνέφαιος.
Op. et Dies, l. 562.

Ἐὖτ' ἂν δ' Ὀρίων καὶ Σείριος ἐς μέσον ἔλθῃ
Οὐρανὸν, Ἀρκτοῦρον δ' ἰσίδῃ ῥοδοδάκτυλος Ἥως.
Ib. 607.

¹² αὐτὰρ ἔπῃν δι)
Πληιάδες Ὑάδες τε τὸ τε σθένος Ὀρίωνος
Δύνωσιν. *Ib.* 612.

These methods were employed to a late period, because the Greek months, being lunar, did not correspond to the seasons. Tables of such motions were called *παραπήγματα*.—Ideler, *Hist. Untersuchungen*, p. 209.