

calated is neutralized, he brings his investigation to a close, in offering some remarks on the merits and usefulness of the Julian Period. Having so far established the antiquity, order, and intercalation of the quadrienniums, on which the year used by the nations that rank as classical is founded, he asserts their perfect conformity, in all essential points, to those incorporated in that great scale which has conferred such inestimable benefits on chronologists; and that, while it removes from them the reproach of measuring by a rule of which the dimensions are vague and indeterminate, furnishes them with an instrument by which the nicest computations may be made, and the most extraordinary discoveries effected.

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On a Babylonian Tablet in the British Museum, by the Rev. Edward Hincks, D. D.

This paper contains a copy of a Babylonian tablet, of which the following is given as the translation :—“On the sixth day of the month Nisan, the day and the night were equal. Six intervals were the day; six intervals were the night. May Nebo and Marduk draw near (i. e. be gracious) to the king, the lord.” Every word in the inscription is examined separately; and its reading in most instances, and its translation in all instances, are given. The *intervals* spoken of, each of which was equal to two of our hours, are shown to have been marked by the running out of water or sand; the root from which the word signifying such an interval is derived having the meaning “to fail.” In the course of the paper the Babylonian ordinal, collective, and cardinal numbers are treated of, and the linear measures; various errors on these subjects being pointed out. In conclusion, the absence of a date for the year is accounted for by the supposition that the tablets of each year were placed in a compartment with wooden sides and bottom; which having decayed, the tablets fell to the ground and were mingled and broken. The date of the equinox recorded is shown to have been on the 27th March,

652 B. C.; the 22nd March being the first day of the Assyrian year.

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The Secretary to the Council also read the following communication from John Barton, Esq., on a remarkable phenomenon observed on Lough Erne :—

*“Clonelly, 23rd October, 1855.*

“MY DEAR SIR,—I beg to call your attention to a phenomenon on Lough Erne, which is universally known to the inhabitants of its shores, particularly on the broad part of the lake,—viz. the working of the lake previous to a change of weather, either from wet to dry, or the reverse.

“As I am aware you know the principal names in the lower lake, I will take Lusties Islands as the centre, and I think the best part for an observer that had any idea of studying the matter to station himself.

“When the lake roars (as the phrase here is) on the east shores, it is a sign of wet; when the noise is on the west, of fine weather. On a calm day the noise of the lake is equal to a waterfall, and the swell comes like a ground swell of the sea, lashing each shore, as the case may be, either from the west for wet, or east for dry weather.

“I have been on the lake on a very fine day,—the lake as smooth as possible,—when all of a sudden a strong ground swell came on, apparently without a cause. In about an hour or so after, it rained very hard, still continuing calm. On the wide part, of course, the waves are larger; but inside the Bow Island an observer can notice this, but in a much smaller degree. From my notice having been attracted to this, I can perceive the same, in a smaller degree, in all small lakes. And I am of opinion, that in a smaller degree every body of water must be subject to the same agitation, although in small bodies the harder to perceive.

“A ground swell on the sea may be accounted for by agitation from any distance, though it may be doubtful. But