

Seven drafts of Newton's defence of the Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms

Author: Isaac Newton

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On thursday Novem. 11th at a meeting of the R.S. A small Tract was delivered to me as a present from M^r William Chevalier the sonn a bookseller at Paris, a person unknown to me, entituled Abrege de Chronologie de M. Chavalier Newton, fait par lui meme & traduit sur le Manuscrit Anglais. And the Bookseller hath premised an advertisement in which he endeavours to defend himself for printing it without my leave saying that he writ three letters to me for my leave & in the third had told me that he would take my silence for a consent, & that he had also charged one of his friends at London to speak to me & procure my precise answer. And that having long expected my answer, he thought that he might take my silence for a sort of consent, & so procured a Privilege & printed it, & then received my answer from his friend which was as follows.

I remember that I wrote a Chronologic Index for a particular friend on condition that it should not be communicated. As I have not seen the Manuscript which you have under my name, I know not whether it is the same. That which I wrote was not at all done with designe to publish it. I designe not to meddle with the printing of that which hath been given you under my name, nor to give any consent to the publishing of it. I am your very humble servant Isaac Newton. London. 27 May 1725. Stylo vetero.

This was the 6^t of Iune new style & the Privilege was Registred the day before. granted Iune 1st & registred Iune 8 & the chronological Index printed of before he received my letter of Iune 6^t, & yet not sent to me till the time of election of a new President was at hand. The Bookseller knew that I had not seen the translation of this Chronological Index & without seeing it could give no consent to the impression, he knew that the translator was unknown to me & was my adversary & therefore knew that it was not fit that I should give my consent nor be asked to doe it, he knew that the translator had written a confutation of the paper translated & that this confutation was to be printed at the end of it & told me nothing of all this & yet asked my consent to print it.

After the recital of my letter he adds: M^r Newton allows that he did write a chronologic Index for a particular friend. And perhaps this acknowledgment induced him to print my letter. He adds further that the author of the translation & of the observations upon it pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or Abridgement of Chronology is the same thing with the writing owned by M^r Newton; & the same author is perswaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him hath been copied from that of this friend, that is from the MS of the particular friend above mentioned for whome I wrote it & whom the author of the translation in the beginning of his Observations calls a great Princess. And therefore the MS which hath been communicated to him is that of Senior Conti copied from that of this Princess. A few days after I had given it to this Princess, her Highness asked my leave that Senior Conti might have a copy. He knew that

it was a secret & that it was by her intercession & my leave that he had a copy & yet without either her leave or mine he dispersed copies all over France, & got an antiquary to translate & confute it, & the antiquary has got a Printer to print the translation with the confutation. And the Printer wrote to me for my consent to the printing & pretends that he had my consent because I delayed to answer his letters till he began to print, & by my silence gave consent to the printing it with a confutation at its first appearing in publick. < insertion from the left margin > as if any man could be so foolish as to consent to the printing of his papers with a confutation annexed at their first appearance in publick.

< text from f 1r resumes >

The translator neare the end of his Observations pag. 90, saith: I beleive that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts & the value of generations, so that I may reserve what might be said against the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronology. What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic Expedition 15 degrees from the first start of Aries. Which is a mistake. I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic Expedition not 15 degrees after the first start of Aries nor 15 degrees before the last star called ultima caudæ but in the Colurus which passeth through the middles of the constellations of Aries & Libra & is at right angles with the Colurus which passeth through the middles of the constellations of ♉ & ♎. And I do in such a manner as was done by Eudoxus who was contemporary to Meton & Thucydides & Xerxes King of Persia. And as for the value of generations, he saith that I value them one with another at 18 or 20 yeares a piece: (pag 52) which is another mistake. For I agree with the ancients in valuing three generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of kings I do not equal to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did, but I value them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece, when ten or twelve kings or above are taken together in continuall succession. So then the Translator has mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded, & has undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to publish it though he thought it good for nothing but to expose me.

<1v>

The Pri{vi}lege was granted May 21 & registred May 25 & the Letter dated May 27 {stylo novo} & the Chronological Index or abridgment printed off before the arrival of My Letter at Paris, & kept ever since to be published at the time of the election of your Offices approaching.

Senior Conti a nobleman of Venice then in England wrote to me that this Princess desired to speak with me, & introduced me to her. She desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused but in few days I could draw up an extract thereof if it might be kept private. And some time after I had done this she desired, that Senior Conti might have a copy of it. He knew that it was a secret & that it was by her intercession & my leave that he had a copy, & yet without either her leave or mine he dispersed copies in France & got an Antiquary to translate & confute it, & the Antiquary has got a printer to print the translation with the confutation And the printer wrote to me thrice for my consent to the printing, & pretends that he had my consent because I did not answer his letters before he printed, & by my silence gave consent: as if any man would consent to the printing of his papers with a confutation at the end of them at their first appearing in publick without seeing the confutation & writing an answer to it.

[1]And I do it in such a manner as was done by Eudoxus, who flourished in the times of the Persian Empire before the precession of the Equinox was discovered, & in describing the ancient sphere names the first starrs through which the Coluri passed.

¹ The translator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron p. 70, 71, 79. ² & that the solstices & Equinoxes were then in the 15th degrees of the Constellations (p. 65, 69, 75 4 & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or Speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion (p. 62, 63, 65 69, 79 3 & that this reckoning was long preserved amongst the Greeks for regulating the time of their publick feasts & sacrifices, p. 64 ⁵ but in his Calendar made for the use of country people he & Meton placed the solstices & equinoxes in the eighth

degrees of the signes & made no other alteration in the rustic Calender then to add his Cycle of 19 years with the intercalations belonging thereto for making the solstices return on the same time of the year (p 65) And that Meton observed the height of the sun in the solstice in the 432 yeare before the birth of Christ, p.64 And Hipparchus names the starrs through which the Colures passed in the ancient Sphere of Chiron described by Eudoxus. And I find that these Colures passed through the middles of the Constellations of ♈ ♉ ♊ & ♋ not 15^{gr} but 7^{gr}. 23' ~~illeg~~ the first star of ♈. & from all this inferr that these were the Colures in the time of the Argonautic Expedition & had gone back from the 15th to the 8th degrees of those Constellations in the days of Meton; & because they go back one degree in 72 years & seven degrees in 504, that the Argonautic Expedition was therefore 504 years ancients then the days of Meton, or there about & by consequence about 45 years after the death of Solomon. But the translator affirms that I place the Equinox 15 degrees after the first star of Aries & by consequence that the Argonautic Expedition was 532 years older then I make it.

But he is mistaken. The first & last star of Aries are not 30 degrees distant from one another The translator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron p. 70, 71, 79, & that the Solstices were then in the middles of the Constellations p. 65 69, 75, & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or Speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion p.62, 63, 65, 69, 79 And Hipparchus names the starrs through which the Coluri passed in this old sphere & thereby places the Colure of the solstices about 7^{gr} 24' from the first starr of Aries, & I follow him. But the translator represents that I place this Colure 15 degrees from the first starr of Aries & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic Expedition 532 years ancients then I do.

He represents that I have a great work to come out, but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge, untill the times of the Convention Parliament, History & Chronology were one of the studies with which I refresht my self when I was weary of other studies: but I made nothing of that kind ready for the press.

He represents that I make the canicular cycle of the Egyptians begin in spring 884 years before the birth of Christ, though it never began in spring. But I meddle not with the Egyptian canicular Cycle. I speak of the Egyptian year of 365 days.

<2r>

When Senior Conti came first into England, which was in spring 17{15} M^r wrote to M^r Leibnitz that he was

His first step was to insinuate himself into my acquaintance, & in a while he began to be at work in engaging me in disputes & sometimes finding persons to defend me. And because I do not trust him he has now found out one to oppose me.⊙ < insertion from lower down f 2r > ⊙ & to soften the business had lately writ a Poem upon me under the colour of a friend < text from higher up f 2r resumes > But I hope that this & the perpetual motion will be the two last efforts of the friends of M^r Leibnitz.

<3r>

An account of the Observations upon the Chronology of S^r I. Newton.

On thursday Novemb. 11th 1725 Old Style a small Tract printed in French was delivered to me as a present from M^r William Chevelier junior a Bookseller at Paris a person unknown to me, entituled; Abrege de Chronology de M. Chevalier Newton fait par lui meme, & traduit sur le Manuscript Anglois. And the Bookseller hath premised an advertisment to defend himself for printing it without my leave, saying that he had writ three letters to me for my leave, & in the third had told me that he would take my silence for a consent; & that he had also charged one of his friends in London to speak to me & procure my express answer; & that having long expected my answer, he thought that he might take my silence for a sort of consent; & so procured a Privilege, & printed it, & then received my answer from his friend, which was as follows.

I remember that I wrote a Chronological Index for a particular friend on condition that it should not be communicated. As I have not seen the Manuscript which you have under my name, I know not whether it be

the same. That which I wrote was not at all done with designe to publish it. I intend not to meddle with that which hath been given you under my name, nor to give any consent to the publishing of it. I am Your very humble servant Isaac Newton. London. 27 May. 1725 stylo vetero.

The Privilege was granted May 21 & registred May 25 old style & my letter dated May 27, & the Chronological Index or Abridgement, as he calls it, printed before the arrival of my letter at Paris, & kept ever since to be published at a convenient time. The Bookseller knew that I had not seen the translation of the Abridgement & without seeing it could not in reason give my consent to the impression. He knew that the translator was unknown to me, & was against me, & therefore he knew that it was not fit that I should give my consent nor be asked to do it. He knew that the translator had written a confutation of the paper translated, & that this confutation under the title of Observations was to be printed at the end of it; & he told me nothing of all this, nor so much as the name of the Observer; & yet asked my consent to the publishing: as if any man could be so foolish as to consent to the publishing of an unseen translation of his papers, made by an unknown person, with a confutation annexed & unanswered, at their first appearance in publick.

After the recital of my Letter he adds that the author of the translation & of the Observations upon it, pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or Abridgement of Chronology is the same with the writing owned by me in my letter, & is persuaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him, hath been copied from that of this friend, that is, from that of the particular friend above mentioned in my letter. And therefore the manuscript which hath been communicated to him is that of Abbe Conti, a Venetian now at Paris of a noble family. He being about seven years ago in England gave me notice that the friend above mentioned desired to speak with me. And this friend then desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused: but in a few days I could draw up an extract thereof if it might be kept secret: And sometime after I had done this & presented it, this friend desired that Abbe Conti might have a copy of it. He was the only person who had a copy, & he knew that it was a secret, & that it was at the desire of this friend & by my leave that he had a copy, & he kept it secret while he staid in England: & yet without either this friends leave or mine he dispersed copies of it in France, & got an Antiquary to translate it into French & to confute it, & the Antiquary hath got a Printer to print the translation & the confutation, & the Printer hath endeavoured to get my leave to print the translation without sending me a copy thereof to be perused, or telling me the name of the translator, or letting me know his designe was to print it with a confutation unanswered & unknown to me.

The Translator neare the end of his Observation (pag. 90) saith: I believe that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts & the length of Generations to make people cautious about the rest. For those are the two foundations of all this new systeme of chronology.

What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic expedition fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries, pag. 75, 79. I place it in the middle of the constellation & the middle of the constellation is not fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries. The Observer grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (pag. 70, 71, 79,) & that the solstices & Equinoxes were then in the middles of the Constellations (pag. 65, 69, 75,) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion, pag. 62, 63, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus names the stars through which the Colures passed in this old sphere according to Eudoxus, & thereby places the equinoctial Colure about $7^{\text{degr}}.36'$ from the first star of Aries: & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observer represents that I place the Colure fifteen degrees from the first star of Aries, & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic expedition 532 years earlier then I do. Let him rectify his mistake, & the Argonautic expedition will be where I place it.

And as for the length of generations, he saith that I reckon them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag. 52, 59:) which is another mistake. I agree with the ancients in reckoning three generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of kings I do not equal to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did: but I reckon them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece when ten or twelve kings or more are taken together in continual successions. So the first 24 kings of France (Pharamund &c) reigned 458 years, which is one with another 19 years a piece. The next 24 kings of France (Ludovicus Balbus &c) reigned 451 years, which is one with another $18\frac{3}{4}$ years a piece. The next 15 kings (Philippus Valesius &c) reigned 315 years which is one with another 21 years a piece. And all the 63 kings of France reigned 1224 years which is $19\frac{1}{2}$ years a piece. And if the long reign of Lewis XIV be added, all the 64 kings of France will reign but 20 years a piece. And

they that examin the matter will find it so in other kingdoms. And I shorten the duration of the ancient kingdoms of Greece in the same proportion that I shorten the reigns of their kings & thereby place the return of the Heraclides into Peleponesus about 154 years, the taking of Troy about 76 years, & the Argonautic expedition about 44 years after the death of Solomon, & find Sesostris contemporary to Sesac, & Cadmus & Europa to David.

So then the Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded, & hath undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to print it without my consent: tho he thought it good for nothing but to get himself a little credit by translating it to be confuted, & confuting his own translation.

The Observator saith that I suppose that the Egyptians began about 900 years before Christ to form their religion, & deify men for their inventions of arts: notwithstanding that it appears by the scriptures that their idolatry & arts were as old as the days of Moses & Iacob, pag. 82, 83. But he is again mistaken. I deny not that the kingdom of the lower Egypt called Mizraim had a religion of their own till they were invaded & subdued by the shepherds who were of another <4r> religion: but I say that when the Thetans (a third people) invaded & expelled the shepherds they set up the worship of their own kings & princes. I say also that arts were brought into Europe principally by the Phenicians & Curetes in the days of Cadmus & David about 1041 years before Christ; & do not deny that they were in Phœnicia Egypt & Idumæa before they came into Europe

The Observator saith also that 884 years before Christ I place the beginning of the Canicular cycle of the Egyptians upon the vernal Equinox, although that cycle never begins in spring, pag 84, 85. But he is again mistaken. I meddle not with that cycle, but I speak of the Egyptian year of 365 days.

The Observator represents that I have a great work to come out: but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge I used sometimes to refresh my self with history & chronology for a while when I was weary with other studies: but I never told him that I was preparing a work of this kind for the publick.

Abbe Conti came into England in Spring 1715, & while he staid in England, he pretended to be my friend, but assisted M^r Leibnits in engageing me in new disputes & hath since acted in the same manner in France. The part he acted here may be understood by the account given of him in the Acta Eruditorum for the year 1721 pag. 90, where the Editor excusing himself from repeating some disputes which had been published in those Acta subjoyns: Suffecerit itaque annotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti, nobilem Venetum, (de quo admiratione digna sibi præscripta esse ab Hermanno fatetur Leibnitius,) cum ex Gallia in Angliam trajecisset, Mediatoris vices in sa suscipere voluisse, atque literas Newtoni ad Leibnitium deferri curasse, Leibnitianas cum Newtono communicasse. And how M^r Leibnitz by this mediation endeavoured to engage me against my will in new disputes about occult qualities, universal gravity, the sensorium of God, space, time, vacuum, atomes, the perfection of the world, supramundane intelligence, & mathematical problemes, is mentioned in the Preface to the second edition of the Commercium epistolicum. And what he hath been doing in Italy, may be understood by the disputes raised there by one of his friends, who denies many of my Optical experiments, though they have been all tried in France with success. But I hope that these things, & the perpetual motion, will be the last efforts of this kind.

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Remarques upon the Abrege de Chronologie de M. le Chevalier Isaac Newton fait par lui meme & traduit sur le Manuscript Anglois. & upon the Observations upon. A

On thursday last, Novem. 11th, at a meeting of the Royal Society, a small Treatis was delivered to me as a present from M^r William Chevelier the son, a bookseller at Paris, a person unknown to me, entituled Abrege de Chronologie de M. Chevalier Newton fait par lui meme & traduit sur le Manuscript Anglay. And the Bookseller hath premised an Advertisement in which he endeavours to defend himself for printing it without my leave, saying that he had writ three letters to me for my leave & in the third had told me that he would take my silence for a consent; & that he had also charged one of his friends in London to speak to me & procure my precise answer: & that having long expected my answer, he thought that he might take my silence

for a sort of consent; & so procured a Privilege, & printed it, & then received my answer from his friend, which was as follows.

I remember that I wrote a Chronological Index for a particular friend on condition that it should not be communicated. As I have not seen the Manuscript which you have under my name, I know not whether it is the same. That which I wrote was not at all done with designe to publish it. I intend not to meddle with that which hath been given you under my name, nor to give any consent to the publishing of it. I am Your very
humble servant Isaac Newton. London. 27 May 1725 stylo vetero.

The Privilege was granted May 21st & registred May 25^t & my Letter dated May 27th Old style, & the chronological Index or Abridgement printed before the arrival of my Letter at Paris, & kept ever since to be published at the time of your election of Officers approaching. The Bookseller knew that I had not seen this translation of the Chronological Index & without seeing it could not in reason give my consent to the impression. He knew that the translator was unknown to me & was my adversary, & therefore he knew that it was not fit that I should give my consent, nor be asked to do it. He knew that the translator had written a confutation of the paper translated, & that this confutation under the title of Observations was to be printed at the end of it; & he told me nothing of all this, & yet asked my consent to print it: as if any man could be so foolish as to consent to the printing of his papers with a confutation annexed & unanswered at their first appearance in public.

After the recitall of my Letter he adds: M^r Newton allows that he did write a chronological Index for a particular friend. And perhaps this acknowledgement induced him to print my Letter. He adds further that the author of the translation & of the observations upon it pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or Abridgment of Chronology is the same thing with the writing owned by M^r Newton; & the same author is perswaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him hath been copied from that of his friend, that is, from the Manuscript of this particular friend above mentioned for whom I wrote it, & whom the author of the translation in the beginning of his Observations (pag. 49) calls a great Princess. And therefore the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him, is that of Senior Conti a nobleman of Venice now at Paris. He being lately in England wrote to me that this Princess desired to speak with me, & introduced me to her Highness; who then desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused: but <6r> in a few days I could draw up an extract thereof if it might be kept private. And sometime after I had done this & presented it, her Highness desired that Senior Conti might have a copy of it. He knew that it was a secret, & that it was by the intercession of the Princess & my leave that he had a copy: & yet without either her leave or mine he dispersed copies of it in France, & got an Antiquary to translate it into french & confute it, & the Antiquary has got a Printer to print the translation & the confutation, & the Printer has endeavoured to get my leave to print the translation without sending me a copy thereof to peruse it, or letting me know that his designe was to print it with a confutation unanswered & unknown to me.

The translator neare the end of his Observations (pag. 90) saith: I believe that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts, & the value of generations, to make people cautious about the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronologie. What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic Expedition fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries (p. 75, 79.) Which is a mistake. ☉ < insertion from f 5v > ☉ The first & last starr of Aries are not 30 degrees distant from one another. The Observator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (p. 70, 71, 79,) & that the solstices were then in the middles of the Constellations (p. 65, 69, 75,) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion p. 62, 68, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus names the starrs through which the Colure passed in this old sphere, & thereby places the equinoxial Colure about 78^r. 36' from the first star of Aries, & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observator represents that I place this Colure fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic expedition 532 years ancients then I do < text from f 6r resumes > And as for the value of Generations he saith that I value them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag 52, 55) which is another mistake. For I agree with the ancients in valuing three generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of kings I do not equal to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did; but I value them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece when ten or twelve kings or above are taken together in continual succession. And they that examin this will find it true. So then the

Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded, & has undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to publish it without my consent though he thought it good for nothing but to discredit me.

The Observator represents that I have a great work to come out; but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge, I used sometimes to refresh my self with History & chronology for a while when I was weary of other studies: but I made nothing of that kind fit for the press.

<6v>

**Remarques
sur les Observations sur la Chronologie
De M. Newton.**

**Response
aux Observations sur le Chronologie
De M. Newton**

His mediatorship began by pressing & obliging me to answer M^r Leibnitz's letter of concerning

How he acted the part of a mediator may be seen in the Preface

How under the colour of a mediator he endeavoured to engage me in new disputes about occult qualities, universal gravity, the sensorium of God, space, time vacuum, atoms, the perfection of the world, supramundane intelligence & Mathematical Problems & with difficulty got me to answer the Letters of M^r Leibnitz may be seen in the Preface to the second edition of the *Commercium Epistolicum*.

<7r>

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to the printing of an unseen translation of his papers with a confutation annexed & unanswered at their first appearance in publick.

After the recital of my Letter he adds: M^r Newton allows that he did write a chronological Index for a particular friend. And perhaps this concession induced him to print my Letter. He adds further that the author of the translation & of the observations upon it, pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or Abridgment of Chronology is the same with the writing owned by M^r Newton; & the same author is perswaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him hath been copied from that of this friend, that is, from the Manuscript of the particular friend above mentioned for whom I wrote it, [& whom the author of the translation in the beginning of his Observations (pag. 49) calls a great Princess.] And therefore the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him, is that of Senior Conti a nobleman of Venice now at Paris. He being about seven years ago in England wrote to me that this friend desired to speake with me, & this friend then desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused: but in a few days I could draw up an Extract thereof if it might be kept secret. And sometime after I had done this & presented it, this friend desired that Senior Conti might have a copy of it. He was the only person who had a copy & knew that it was secret, & that it was at the desire of this friend & by my leave that he had a copy: & yet without either my friends leave or mine, he dispersed copies of it in France, & got an antiquary to translate it into French, & to confute it, & the Antiquary hath got a Printer to print <8r> the translation & the confutation, & the Printer hath endeavoured to get my leave to print the translation without sending me a copy thereof to be perused, or letting me know that his designe was to print it with a confutation unanswered & unknown to me.

The translator neare the end of his Observations (pag. 90) saith: I believe that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts, & the length of generations, to make people cautious about the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronology. What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic expedition fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries. p. 75, 79 Which is a mistake. The first & last starr of Aries are not thirty degrees from one another. The Observator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (p. 70, 71, 79,) & that the solstices were then in the middles of the Constellations (p. 65, 69, 75) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion, p.62, 63, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus names the starrs through which the Colures passed in this old sphere, according to Eudoxus & thereby places the Equinoctial Colure about 78^r. 36' from the first star of Aries, & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observator represents that I place this Colure fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries, & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic Expedition 532 years earlier then I do. ☉ < insertion from f 7v > ☉ Let him rectify his mistake & the Argonautic Expedition will be where I place it. < text from f 8r resumes > // And as for the length of Generations he saith that I reckon them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag. 52, 55): which is another mistake. For I agree with the ancients in reckoning three generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of kings I do not equal to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did; but I reckon them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece when ten or twelve kings or more are taken together in continual succession < insertion from f 7v > < text from f 8r resumes > * < insertion from f 7v > * So the first twenty four kings of France, Pharamond & reigned 458 years which is one with another 19 years a piece. The next twenty four kings of France Ludovicus Balbus &c &c reigned 451 years which is one with another $18\frac{3}{4}$ years a piece; the next fifteen kings Philippus Valesius &c reigned 315 years which is one with another 21 years a piece; & all the 63 Kings of France from the yeare 418 to the year 1643 reigned 1224 years which is $19\frac{1}{2}$ years a piece. And if the long reign of Lewis 14th be added, the 64 kings will reign but 20 yeare a piece And they that examin the matter will find it so in other kingdoms. And I shorten the duration of the ancient kingdoms of Greece in the same proportion that I shorten the reigns of their kings

And from the beginning of the reign of Hugh Capet A.C. 987 to the end of the reign of Lewis 14 1710 (to take his one example) were 30 reigns & 723 reigns which is but 24 years to a reign. < text from f 8r resumes > And they that examin this will find it true. // So then the Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded; & has undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to publish it without my consent, though he thought it good for nothing but to get himself a little credit.

The Observator represents that I have a great work to come out; but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge I used sometimes to refresh my self with history & Chronology for a while when I was weary of other studies: but I never told him or seignior Conti that I was making any work of this kind ready for the Press.

Senior Conti came into England in Spring 1715, & while he staid in England he pretended to be my friend but assisted M^r Leibnitz in engaging me in disputes, & hath since acted in the same manner in France. The part he acted here may be understood by the character given of him in the Acta Eruditorum for the year 1721 pag 90, where the Editor excusing himself for repeating some disputes which had been published in those Acta, subjoyns: < insertion from f 7v > where the Editor excusing himself from repeating some disputes which had been published before in those Acta, subjoyns < text from f 8r resumes > Suffecerit itaque annotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti, nobilem Venetum (de quo admiratione digna sibi præscepta esse ab Hermanno fatetur Lei{b}nitius) cum ex <8v> Gallia in Angliam trajecisset, Mediatoris vices in se suscipere voluisse, atque literas Newtoni ad Leibnitium deferri curasse, Leibnitianis cum Newtono communicasse. And what he has been doing in Italy may be understood partly by his sending thither M^r Sterling, a person then unknown to me, to be ready to defend me there if I would have contributed to his maintenance there, & partly by the disputes since raised there by one of his friends who denies many of my Optical Experiments though they have been all tryed in France with success. But I hope that these things & the perpetual motion will be the last efforts of this kind

<9r>

**Response
aux Observations sur le Chronologie
de M. Newton.**

On thursday Novem. 11th, 1725, a small Tract in print was delivered to me as a present from M^r William Chevelier junior a bookseller at Paris a person unknown to me, entituled, Abrege de Chronologie de M. Chevalier Newton, fait par lui meme, & traduit sur le Manuscript Anglois. And the Bookseller hath premised an advertisement in which he endeavoureth to defend himself for printing it without my leave, saying he had writ three letters to me for my leave, & in the third had told me that he would take my silence for a consent; & that he had also charged one of his friends in London to speak to me & procure my precise | express answer; & that having long expected my answer, he thought that he might take my silence for a sort of consent; so procured a Privilege, & printed it, & then received my answer from his friend, which was as follows.

I remember that I wrote a Chronological Index for a particular friend on condition that it should not be communicated. As I have not seen the Manuscript which you have under my name, I know not whether it be the same. That which I wrote was not at all done with designe to publish it. I intend not to meddle with that which hath been given you under my name, nor to give any consent to the publishing of it. I am your very humble servant Isaac Newton. London 27 May 1725. stylo vetero.

The Privilege was granted May 21st, & registred May 25^t, & my Letter dated May 27th Old style, & the Chronological Index, or Abridgement as he calls it, printed before the arrival of my Letter at Paris, & kept ever since to be published at a convenient time. The bookseller knew that I had not seen the translation of the Abridgment, & without seeing it could not in reason give my consent to the impression. He knew that the translator was unknown to me & was against me: & therefore he knew that it was not fit that I should give my consent, nor be asked to do it. He knew that the translator had written a confutation of the paper translated, & that this confutation under the title of Observations was to be printed at the end of it, & he told me nothing of all this nor so much as the name of the Observator & yet asked my consent to the publishing: as if any man could be so foolish as to consent to the printing of an unseen translation of his papers with a confutation annexed & unanswered at their first appearance in publick.

After the first recital of my Letter he adds that the author of the translation & of the observations upon it, pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or abridgement of Chronology is the same with the writing owned by me in my Letter, & is perswaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him hath been copied from that of this friend, that is, from the Manuscript of the particular friend above mentioned in

my Letter. And therefore the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him is that of Abbe Conti a noble Venetian now at Paris. He being about seven years ago in England, gave me notice that the friend above mentioned desired to speak with me. And this friend then desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused: but in a few days I could draw up an extract thereof if it might be kept secret. And sometime after I had done this & presented it, this friend desired that Abbe Conti might have a copy of it. He was the only person who had a copy, & he knew that it was a secret & that it was at the desire of this friend & by my leave that he had a copy, & he kept it secret while he staid in England: & yet without either this friends leave or mine, he dispersed copies of it in France, & got an antiquary to translate it into French, & to confute it, & the Antiquary hath got a Printer to print the translation & the confutation, & the Printer hath endeavoured to get my leave to print the translation without sending me a copy thereof to be perused, or telling me the name of the translator, or letting me know that his designe was to print it with a confutation unanswered & unknown to me.

The translator neare the end of his Observations (pag.90) saith: I believe that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts & the length of generations to make people cautious about the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronology. What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox of the Argonautic <10r> expedition fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries, p. 75, 79. Which is a mistake The first & last starr of Aries are not 30 degrees from one another as they should be that the middle of the Constellation may be fifteen degrees from each. The Observator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (pag. 70, 71, 79) & that the solstices & Equinoxes were then in the middles of the Constellations (pag. 65, 69, 75) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion, p. 62, 63, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus ^{a[2]} names the starrs through which the Colures passed in this old sphere according to Eudoxus, & thereby places the Equinoctial Colure about 78^r 36' from the first starr of Aries; & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observator represents that I place this Colure fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries, & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic Expedition 532 years earlier then I do. Let him rectify his mistake, & the Argonautic Expedition will be where I place it.

And as for the length of generations, he saith that I reckon them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag. 52, 55:) which is another mistake. I agree with the ancients in reckoning three generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of Kings I do not equal to generations, as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did: but I reckon them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece when ten or twelve kings or more are taken together in continual succession. So the first 24 Kings of France (Pharmund &c) reigned 458 years, which is one with another 19 years a piece. The next 24 Kings of France (Ludovicus Balbus &c) reigned 451 years, which is one with another 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ years. The next 15 Kings (Philippus Valesius &c) reigned 315 years, which is one with another 21 years a piece. And all the 63 Kings of France reigned 1224 years, which is 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ years a piece. And if the long reign of Lewis XIV be added, the 64 kings will reign but 20 years a piece. And they that examin the matter will find it so in other kingdoms. And I shorten the duration of the ancient Kingdoms of Greece in the same proportion that I shorten the reigns of their Kings, ‡ < insertion from f 9v > ‡ & thereby place the argonautic Expedition about 45 years, & the taking of Troy about 77 years after the death of Solomon.

< text from f 10r resumes >

So then the Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded; & hath undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to print it without my consent, though he thought it good for nothing but to get imself a little credit by translating it & confuting his own translation.

✧ < insertion from f 9v > ✧ The Observator saith that I suppose that the Egyptians began about 900 years before Christ to form their religion & deify men for their invention of arts, notwithstanding it appears by scriptures that their idolatry & arts were as old as the days of Moses & Iacob, pag. 82, 83. But he is again mistaken. I deny not that the Kingdom of the lower Egypt called Mizraim had a religion of their own till they were subdued by the shepherds who were of another religion: & I say that when the Thebans expelled the Shepherds, they set up the worship of their own Kings; & that Arts were brought into Europe principally by the Phenicians & Curetes in the days of David & Cadmus about 1041 years before Christ; & do not deny that they were in Phœnicia Egypt & Idumæa before they came into Europe. < text from f 10r resumes >

He saith also that 884 years before Christ I place the beginning of the Canicular Cycle of the Egyptians upon the vernal Equinox, although that Cycle never begins in Spring, pag. 84, 85. But he is again mistaken. I meddle not with that Cycle, but speak of the Egyptian year of 365 days.

The Observator represents that I have a great work to come out: but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge I used sometimes to refresh my self with history & chronology for a while when I was weary with other studies: but I never told him that I was preparing a work of this kind for the publick.

Abbe Conti came into England in Spring 1715, & while he staid in England he pretended to be my friend but assisted M^r Leibnitz in engaging me in new disputes, & hath since acted in the same manner in France. The part he acted here may be understood by the character given of him in the Acta Eruditorum for the year 1721 pag. 90, where the Editor excusing himself from repeating some disputes which had been published in those Acta, subjoynes: Suffecerit itaque annotasse Abbatum quendam Italum de Conti, nobilem Venetum (de quo admiratione digna sibi præscripta esse ab Hermanno fatetur Leibnitius) cùm ex Gallia in Angliam trajecisset, Mediatoris vices in se suscipere voluisse, atque literas Newtoni ad Leibnitium deferri curasse, Leibnitianas cum Newtono communicasse. And what he has been doing in Italy may be understood partly by his sending M^r Sterling¹ thither <10v> & partly by the disputes since raised there by one of his friends who denies many of my optical experiments {tho} they have been all tried in France with successe. But I hope that these things, & the perpetual motion, will be the last efforts of this kind

<11r>

**Response
aux Observations sur le Chronologie
de M. Newton.**

On thursday Novem. 11th 1725, a small Tract in print was delivered to me as a present from M^r William Chevalier junior a bookseller at Paris, a person unknown to me, entituled, Abrege de Chronologie de M. Chevalier Newton, fait par lui meme, & traduit sur le Manuscript Anglois. And the Bookseller hath premised an advertisement in which he endeavoureth to defend himself for printing it without my leave, saying that he had writ three letters to me for my leave, & in the third had told me that he would take my silence for a consent; & that he had also charged one of his friends in London to speak to me & procure my express answer; & that having long expected my answer, he thought that he might take my silence for a sort of consent; & so procured a privilege & printed it, & then received my answer from his friend, which was as follows.

I remember that I wrote a Chronological Index for a particular friend on condition that it should not be communicated. As I have not seen the Manuscript which you have under my name, I know not whether it be the same. That which I wrote was not at all done with designe to publish it. I intend not to meddle with that which hath been given you under my name, nor to give any consent to the publishing of it. I am Your very humble servant Isaac Newton. London. 27 May, 1725, stylo vetero.

The Privilege was granted May 21 & registred May 25 old style & my Letter dated May 27, & the Chronological Index, or Abridgement as he calls it, printed before the arrival of my Letter at Paris, & kept ever since to be published at a convenient time. The Bookseller knew that I had not seen the translation of the Abridgment & without seeing it could not in reason give my consent to the impression. He knew that the translator was unknown to me, & was against me: & therefore he knew that it was not fit that I should give my consent, nor be asked to do it. He knew that the translator had written a confutation of the paper translated, & that this confutation under the title of Observations was to be printed at the end of it; & he told me nothing of all this, nor so much as the name of the Observator, & yet asked my consent to the publishing: as if any man could be so foolish as to consent to the publishing of an unseen translation of his papers made by an unknown person with a confutation annexed & unanswered at their first appearance in publick.

After the recital of my Letter he adds that the author of the translation & of the Observations upon it, pretends to have an entire certainty that this Index or Abridgement of Chronology is the same with the writing owned by me in my Letter, & is perswaded that the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him, hath been copied from that of this friend, that is, from that of the particular friend above mentioned in my Letter. And

therefore the Manuscript which hath been communicated to him is that of Abbe Conti a noble Venetian now at Paris. He being about seven years ago in England gave me notice that the friend above mentioned desired to speak with me. And this friend then desired a copy of what I had written about Chronology. I replied that it was imperfect & confused, but in a few days I could draw up an abstract thereof if it might be kept secret. And some time after I had done this & presented it, this friend desired that signior Conti might have a copy of it. He was the only person who had a copy, & he knew that it was a secret, & that it was at the desire of this friend & by my leave that he had a copy & he kept it secret while he staid in England: & yet without either this friends leave or mine he dispersed copies of it in France, & got an antiquary to translate it into French, & to confute it, & the Antiquary hath got a Printer to print the translation & the confutation, & the Printer hath endeavoured to get my leave to print the translation without sending me a copy thereof to be perused, or telling the name of the translator; or letting me know what his designe was to print it with a confutation unanswered & unknown to me.

The translator neare the end of his Observations (pag. 90) saith: I beleive that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts & the length of generations to make people cautious about the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronology. What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic Expedition fifteen degrees from the first star of Aries, pag. 75, 79. I place it in the middle of the constellation & the middle is not fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries. The observator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (pag. 70, 71, 79) & that the solstices & Equinoxes were then in the middles of the Constellations (pag. 65, 69, 75) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or Speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion, pag. 62, 63, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus ^{a[3]} names the starrs through which the Colures passed in this old sphere according to Eudoxus, & thereby places the Equinoctial Colure about 7^{degr.} 36' from the first starr of Aries; & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observator represents that I place the Colure fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries, & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic Expedition 532 years earlier then I do. Let him rectify his mistake, & the Argonautic Expedition will be where I place it.

As for the length of generations, he saith that I reckon them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag. 52, 55:) which is another mistake. I agree with the ancients in reckoning thre generations at about an hundred years. But the reigns of kings I do not equall to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did: but I reckon them only at about 18 or 20 years <12r> a piece one with another when ten or twelve kings or more are taken in continual succession. So the first 24 Kings of France (Pharamund &c) reigned 458 years which is one with another 19 years a piece. The next 24 Kings of France (Ludovicus Balbus &c) reigned 451 years, which is one with another $18\frac{3}{4}$ years a piece. The next 15 Kings (Philippus Valesius &c) reigned 315 years, which is one with another 21 years a piece. And all the 63 Kings of France reigned 1224 years which is $19\frac{1}{2}$ years a piece. And if the long reign of Lewis XIV be added, the 64 Kings of France will reign but 20 years a piece. And they that examin the matter will find it so in other Kingdoms. And I shorten the duration of the ancient Kingdoms of Greece in the same proportion that I shorten the reigns of their Kings, & thereby place the Argonautic Expedition about 44 years, & the taking of Troy about 76 years after the death of Solomon.

So then the Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded, & hath undertaken to translate & to confute a paper which he did not understand & been zealous to print it without my consent; tho he thought it good for nothing but to get himself a little credit by translating it to be confuted & confuting his own translation.

The Observator saith that I suppose that the Egyptians began about 900 years before Christ to form their religion & deify men for their inventions of arts, notwithstanding that it appears by the scriptures that their idolatry & arts were as old as the days of Moses & Iacob, pag. 82, 83. But he is again mistaken. I deny not that the Kingdom of the lower Egypt called Mizraim had a religion of their own till they were invaded & subdued by the shepherds who were of of another religion: but I say that when the Thebans expelled the Shepherds they set up the worship of their own Kings & princes. I say also that arts were brought into Europe principally by the Phenicians & Curetes in the time of Cadmus & David about 1041 years before Christ; & do not deny that they were in Phenicia Egypt & Idumea before they came into Europe.

The Observator saith also that 884 years before Christ I place the beginning of the canicular cycle of the Egyptians upon the vernal Equinox, although that cycle never begins in spring, pag. 84, 85. But he is again mistaken. I meddle not with that cycle, but speak of the Egyptian year of 365 years.

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Abbé Conti came into England in spring 1715, & while he staid in England he pretended to be my friend, but assisted M^r Leibnitz in engaging me in new disputes, & hath since acted in the same manner in France. The part he acted here may be understood by the character given of him in the Acta Eruditorum for the year 1721, pag. 90: where the Editor excusing himself from repeating some disputes which had been published in those Acta, subjoyns: Suffecerit itaque annotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti, nobilem Venetum (de quo admiratione digna sibi præscripta esse ab Hermanno fatetur Leibnitius) cum ex Gallia in Angliam trajecisset, Mediatoris vices in se suscipere voluisse, atque litteras Newtoni ad Leibnitium deferri curasse, Leibnitianas cum Newtono communicasse. And how M^r Leibnitz by his mediation endeavoured to engage me against my will in new disputes about occult qualities, universal gravity, the sensorium of God, space, time, vacuum, atoms, the perfection of the world, supramundane intelligence, & mathematical problemes, is mentioned in the Preface to the second edition of the Commercium Epistolicum. And what he has been doing in Italy may be understood by the disputes raised there by one of his friends who denies many of my optical experiments though they have been all tried in France with success. But I hope that these things, & the perpetual motion, will be the last efforts of this kind.

<12v>

D^r Arbothnot in Cork street in Burlington Gardens.

<13r>

**Response
aux Observations sur le Chronologie
de M. Newton.**

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The Translator neare the end of his Observations (pag. 90) saith: I believe that I have said enough concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts & the length of Generations to make people cautious about the rest. For these are the two foundations of all this new systeme of Chronology.

What he saith concerning the Epoque of the Argonauts is founded on on the supposition that I place the Equinox in the time of the Argonautic Expedition fifteen degrees from the first star of Aries, pag. 75, 79. I place it in the middle of the constellation & the middle of the constellation is not fifteen degrees from the first star of Aries. The Observator grants that the Constellations were formed by Chiron (pag. 70, 71, 79,) & that the solstices & equinoxes were then in the middles of the Constellations (pag. 65, 69, 75.) & that Eudoxus in his Enoptron or Speculum cited by Hipparchus followed this opinion, p. 62, 63, 65, 69, 79. And Hipparchus a[4] names the starrs through which the colures passed in this old sphere according to Eudoxus, & thereby places the Equinoctial Colure about 7^{degr} 36' from the first star of Aries: & I follow Hipparchus & Eudoxus. But the Observator represents that I place the Colure fifteen degrees from the first starr of Aries & thence deduces that I should have made the Argonautic expedition 532 years earlier then I do. Let him rectify his mistake, & the Argonautic expedition will be where I place it.

And as for the length of generations, he saith that I reckon them one with another at 18 or 20 years a piece (pag. 52, 59:) which is another mistake. I agree with the ancients in reckoning three generations at about an hundred yeares. But the reigns of kings I do not equal to generations as the ancient Greeks & Egyptians did: but I reckon them only at about 18 or 20 years a piece when ten or twelve kings or more are taken together in continual succession. So the first 24 Kings of France (Pharamund &c) reigned 458 years, which is one with another 19 years a piece. The next 24 Kings of France (Ludovicus Balbus &c) reigned 451 years, which is one with another $18\frac{3}{4}$ years a piece. The next 15 Kings (Philippus Valesius &c) reigned 315 years, which is one with another 21 years a piece. And all the 63 Kings of France reigned 1224 years, which is $19\frac{1}{2}$ years a piece. And if the long reign of Lewis XIV be added, all the 64 Kings of France will reign but 20 years a piece. And they that examen the matter, will find it so in other kingdoms. And I shorten the duration of the ancient kingdoms of Greece in the same proportion that I shorten the reigns of their Kings, & thereby place the Argonautic Expedition about 44 years & the taking of Troy about 76 years after the death of Solomon, & find the reign of Sesostris contemporary to that of Sesac. † < insertion from f 14r > & find Sesostris contemporary to Sesak & Cadmus & Europa to David

< text from f 13v resumes >

So then the Observator hath mistaken my meaning in the two main arguments on which the whole is founded, & hath undertaken to translate & confute a paper which he did not understand, & been zealous to print it

without my consent: tho he thought it good for nothing but to get himself a little credit by translating it to be confuted & confuting his own translation.

The observator saith that I suppose that the Egyptians began about 900 years before Christ to form their religion & deify men for their inventions of arts, notwithstanding that it appears by the scriptures that their idolatry & arts were as old as the days of Moses & Iacob, pag. 82, 83. But he is again mistaken. I deny not that the kingdom of the lower Egypt called Misraim had a religion of their own till they were invaded & subdued by the shepherds who were of another religion: but I say that when the Thebans (a third people) invaded & expelled the shepherds, they set up the worship of their own kings & princes. I say also that arts were brought into Europe principally by the Phenicians & Curetes in the days of <14r> Cadmus & David about 1041 years before Christ; & do not deny that they were in Phœnicia Egypt & Idumæa before they came into Europe.

The Observator saith also that 884 years before Christ I place the beginning of the Canicular cycle of the Egyptians upon the vernal Equinox, although that cycle never begins in Spring, pag. 84, 85. But he is again mistaken. I meddle not with that cycle but speak of the Egyptian year of 365 days.

The Observator represents that I have a great work to come out: but I never told him so. When I lived at Cambridge, I used sometimes to refresh my self with history & chronology for a while when I was weary with other studies: but I never told him that I was preparing a work of this kind for the publick.

Abbe Conti came into England in Spring 1715, & while he staid in England he pretended to be my friend, but assisted M^r Leibnitz in engaging me in new disputes, & hath since acted in the same manner in France. The part he acted here may be understood by the account given of him in the *Acta Eruditorum* for the year 1721 pag. 90, where the Editor excusing himself from repeating some disputes which had been published in those *Acta*, subjoyns: Suffecerit itaque annotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti, nobilem Venetum, (de quo admiratione digna sibi præscripta esse ab Hermanno fatetur Leibnitius,) cum ex Gallia in Angliam trajecisset, Mediatoris vices in se suscipere voluisse, atque litteras Newtoni ad Leibnitium deferri curasse, Leibnitianis cum Newtono communicasse. And how M^r Leibnitz by this pretended mediation endeavoured to engage me against my will in new disputes about occult qualities, universal gravity, the sensorium of God, space, time, vacuum, atomes, the perfection of the world, supramundane intelligence, & mathematical problemes, is mentioned in the Preface to the second edition of the *Commercium Epistolicum*. And what he hath been doing in Italy may be understood by the disputes raised there by one of his friends who denies many of my Optical experiments, tho they have been all tried in France with success. But I hope that these things, & the perpetual motion, will be the last efforts of this kind.

<15r>

Cronologie de Monsieur le Chevalier Newton qui a este traduit en françois par un scavant je ce Pays avec des Remarques je vouldroit bine scavoir si Monsieur le Chevallier Newton na Rien a y {Corriger} ayant envie de l'imprimer.

<16r>

Chronologie abridged. 6

Pag. 2. lin 8. For Philosophe Heraclite write Isocrates.

Pag. 3. lin 8, 9, 10, 11. Write. And where he left off, Polybius began & carried on the history.

Pag. 4 lin. 11 for un write le.

Ib. lin. 21. for environ write above.

Pag. 6. lin. {9} for & Titelive convient que write & so doth Servius

Ib. lin 13, 14 write Tiglathpilesar.

Pag. 8 lin. 29 write seulement 18 or 20 ans

Pag.9. lin. 19, 20 for plus long write not much above.

<16v>

Chronique Abregée.

pag. i0. lin. 10 lege Thamus ou Thammuz:

ib. lin. 14 lege Bæon, Apachnas, Apophis, Ianias, Assis &c

Pag. 12 lin 22 Pro Tath-Mosis scribe Tethmosis.

P. 21. lin 25 Dele Occidentale.

P. 23. lin. 1. Pro Egypte scribe Syrie.

P. 26. lin. 1. scribe Dij magni majorum gentium.

Ib. lin. 21 scribe & de son fils Antée, ou d'Atlas,

Ib lin. ult. ep. 21 lin.1 pro Osiris & Bosiris scribe O Siris & Bou Siris

P. 28. l. 21. scribe de Zerah & Cissia

Ib. lin 23 & 29 scribe Osarsiph pro Osar Syph

Pag. 30. lin. 1. pro Scorpius scribe Chelæ.

Ib. lin. 6, 7, 8, 9. write in English – Meton in the year of Nabonassar 316 observed the summer solstice in the eighth degree of Cancer & therefore the solstice had then gone back seven degrees. It goes back one degree in about 72 years.

Pag.31. lin 10, 11. write in English – and Hippocrates was the 18th from Æsculapius by the fathers side, & the 19th from Hercules by the mothers side

Pag. 33. l. 8. Pro Troye scribe Thebes.

Ib. lin 16 Pro Tubal-Canaan scribe Baal-Canaan

Ib. lin 24 Pro Osar-Syph scribe Osarsyph.

Pag. 34. lin 2, 3. Pro cent ans, and cinque cent ans, & mille ans, write mille ans, and cinque mille ans, and dix mille ans.

Ib. lin. 27 Pro Syrie write Syrie.

Ib. lin. 25, 26, 27 write. Anno ante Christum 995 Teucer batit Salamis, dans l'Isle de Chypre. Hadad ou Benhadad, Roy de Syrie meurt, & on lui batit un Temple a Damas où l'on établit son cult & des fêtes en son honour. Ib. lin. ult. for 884 write 887

Pag. 35. lin 2 dele – les galleries &

Ib. lin. 9. After – de 360 jours, add, & said that they were added when those five princes were born

Ib. lin. 19. After ce jour la, add. And this circle continued there till Cambyses spoiled the temples of Egypt

Pag.36. lin. 28. write. de la premiere année de Nabonassar, c'est a dire, l'an 884 avant I.C. And if it began upon the day next after the Vernal Equinox, it might be three or four years earlier. C'est par là qu' nous avons

Pag. 37. lin. 3. blot out si cela est & write par cela.

Ib. l. 7 for 884 write 886

Ib. l. 8 for d'Ogygie (de Cadis) write (de Cadis ou Cales.

Ib. l. 22 write, and that this age should end when the men then living grew hoary & dropt into the grave; & therefore it was but of an ordinary length. And Herodotus has told us that

Pag. 39. lin 11, 12 blot out de ces generations ou plutot.

Ib. lin. 18. for 40 write 140.

Ib. lin. 23. for 803 write 808.

Ib. lin. 24 – & begins the third great Pyramid

Ib. lin. 28. for 803 write 804.

Pag.40. lin 13 read – in the upper Egypt.

Ib. lin 15 for Sesonchis write Anysis or Amosis at Anysis or Hænes.

Pag. 41. lin. 10 for Ana-Kindarax write Anakyndaraxis

Pag. 42. lin. 15, 16. read The government of Egypt committed to twelve Princes.

Pag 43. lin 5 for onze write 15.

Pag.44. lin 2 for Cylon write Creon.

Pag. 46. lin. 7 for 565 write 563.

And what he has been doing in Italy may be understood by his sending thither M^r Sterling a person then unknown to me to be ready to defend me there if I would have contributed to his maintenance, & by the disputes since raised there by one of his friends who denies many of my Optical experiments though they have been all tried in France with success.

The Observator represents that I ascribe the first invention of Arts to the Gods of Egypt about 900 years before the birth of Christ {pag. 82, 83 but he} is mistaken. I say that arts were brought into Europe by Cadmus & his Phenicians in the reign of David about 1041 years before Christ, & do not deny that they were in Phenicia & Egypt & Idumaea before they came into Europe

He saith also that 884 years before Christ I place the beginning of the Canicular cycle upon the vernal equinox although that cycle never begins in spring. pag. 84, 85. But he is again mistaken. I meddle not with that cycle but speak of the Egyptian year of 365 days.

He saith that I place the beginning of the religion of Egypt about 900 years before the birth of Christ whereas they had a religion in the days of Abraham, but he misrepresents things. The lower Egypt called Mizraim had a religion in the days of Abraham & Iacob. The shepherds set up their own religion there till the days of

Samuel & David. And the Thebans & Ethiopians who expelled the shepherds set up their own religion & the worship of their own kings & Princes when they expelled the shepherds

He saith that I suppose that the Ægyptians began about 900 years before the Christian Æra to form their religion & to deify men for the invention of arts though their idolatry & {arts} were as old as the days of {Moses} & Iacob pag 92, 93 but he misrepresents things. I deny not that the lower Egypt called Mizraim had a religion of their own till the shepherds invaded them, who were of another religion. And say that when the Thebans expelled the shepherds they set up the worship of their own kings I say also that Arts were brought into Europe principally by Cadmus & the Phenicians & Curetes in the reign of David about 1041 years before Christ & do not deny that they

- 4 D^r Mead
- 9 M^rPitfield
- 2 S^r Hans Sloane
- 8 M^r Folkes
- 5 D^r Iurin
- 10 M^r Machin
- 1 Lord Peasley
- 3 D^r Stanley
- 6 D^r Halley
- 7 D^r Harwood

<18v>

The Observator represents

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<19r>

And saith expressly that Eudoxus drew one of these Colures through the middle of Cancer & the middle of Capricorn & the other through the middle of Chelæ & the back of Aries. And I follow Eudoxus & by doing so place his Equinoctial Colure about 7^{degr} 36' from the first star of Aries. But the Observator –

Remarques upon the Observations made upon a Chronological Index of S^r I. N. translated into French by the Observator & published at Paris.

Remarques upon

<20r>

When Senior Conti came first into England (which was in Spring 1715 he insinuated himself into my acquaintance & for what end is apparent by the account which hath been given of him in the Acta Eruditorum for the year 1721 pag. 90, where after mentioning the disputes that have been with M^r Leibnits, he adds: Suffecerit adnotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti cum Newtono communicasse.

But I hope that the divulging of this abrigment, the disputes of Seignior Rizetti & the perpetual motion, the sending of M^r Sterling {behind} into Italy to be ready to defend me will be the last efforts of the Leibnitians

– But I hope that the divulging of this Chronological Index, the sending of M^r Sterling into Italy to be ready to defend me, the disputes raised against me there by by Senior Rizzetti, & the perpetual motion, will be the last efforts of the friends of M^r Leibnitz to imbroil me.

While {Sein.} Conti he staid in England he carried on the intreagues of M^r Leibnitz & his friends under the colour of Friendship to me as far as he was able; as may be understood by comparing his his behaviour since in France with the account given of him in the Acta erutitorum for the year 1721 pag 90, which is as follows: Suffecerit adnotasse Abbatem quendam Italum de Conti – cum Newtono communicasse

[1] p. 75, 79,

[2] ^a See Hipparchus published by Petavius Vol. 3. p. 116, 117, 119, 120.

[3] ^a See Hipparchus published by Petavius, vol. 3. p. 116, 117, 119, 120.

[4] ^a See Hipparchus published by Petavius, vol. 3 p. 116, 117, 119, 120.
