

in the positions, that, in the latitude of Upper Egypt, at a certain epoch, and during a certain number of ages, the year of Sirius was really within very little of 365 days and a quarter; so that the heliacal rising of this star returned in fact to the same day of the Julian year, the 20th July, in the year 1322 before, and the year 138 after Christ *.

From this actual coincidence, at this remote period, M. Fourier, who has confirmed all these accounts by new calculations, concludes, that, since the length of the year of Sirius was so perfectly known to the Egyptians, they must have determined it by observations made during a long series of years, and conducted with great accuracy; observations which must be referred to at least 2500 years before the present time, and which could not have been made long before or long after this interval of time †.

* Petau. loc. cit. M. Ideler asserts that this concurrence of the heliacal rising of Sirius also took place in 2782 before Christ. (Historical Researches in M. Halma's *Ptolomée*, vol. iv. p. 37.) But with regard to the Julian year 1598 after Christ, which is also the last of a great year, Petau and Ideler differ much from each other. The latter refers the heliacal rising of Sirius to the 22d July; the former to the 19th or 20th of August.

† See, in the great work on Egypt, *Antiq. Memoirs*, vol. 1. p. 803. the ingenious Memoir of M. Fourier, enti-