

This result would assuredly be very striking, had it been directly, and by observations, made upon Sirius itself, that they had fixed the length of the year of Sirius. But experienced astronomers affirm it to be impossible that the heliacal rising of a star could afford a sufficient foundation for exact observations on such a subject, especially in a climate where *the circumference of the horizon is constantly so much loaded with vapours, that, in clear nights, stars of the second or third magnitude can never be seen within some degrees of the verge of the horizon, and that the sun itself is completely obscured at its rising and setting.** They maintain, that, if the length of the year had not been otherwise ascertained, there would have been a mistake of one or two days.† They have no doubt, therefore, that this duration of 365 days and a quarter, is that of the tropical year inaccurately determined by the observation of the shadow, or by that of

tled Recherches sur les Sciences et le Gouvernement de l'Egypte.

* These are the words of the late M. Nouet, Astronomer to the Expedition to Egypt. See Volney, *New Inquiries regarding Ancient History*, vol. iii.

† Delambre, *Abregé d'Astronomie*, p. 217; and in his note upon the Parantaellons, in his *History of the Astronomy of the Middle Age*, p. lij.