

or at least among the nation which had bequeathed them its knowledge. But the whole of this system, invented with so much labour, falls to the ground of itself, now that it is proved that this epoch has been adopted but of late, from calculations made backwards, and even false in their results.\*

Mr Bentley has discovered that the tables of Tirvalour, on which the assertion of Bailley especially rested, must have been calculated about 1281 of the Christian era, or 540 years ago, and that the Surya-Siddhanta, which the Brahmins regard as their oldest scientific treatise on astronomy, and which they pretend to have been revealed upwards of 20,000,000 of years ago, could not have been composed at an earlier period than about 760 years from the present day †.

Solstices and equinoxes indicated in the Pauranas, and calculated according to the positions which seem to be attributed to them by the signs

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\* See Laplace, *Exposé du Systeme du Monde*, p. 330; and the Memoir of Mr Davis, on the Astronomical Calculations of the Indians.—*Calcutta Memoirs*, vol. ii. p. 225, 8vo. edition.

† See Mr Bentley's *Memoirs on the Antiquity of the Surya-Siddhanta*, *Calcutta Memoirs*, vol. vi. p. 540; and on the *Astronomical Systems of the Indians*, *ibid.*, vol. viii. p. 195. of the 8vo edition.