## FRENCH REPUBLICAN CALENDAR,

A calendar substituted in France during the Revolution in place of the prevailing Gregorian system. Something of the sort had been suggested. in 1785 by a certain Riboud, and a definite scheme had been promulgated by Pierre Sylvain Maréchal 0750-1803) in his *Almanach des honnêtes gens* (1733). The objects which the advocates of a new calendar had in view were to strike a blow at the clergy and to divorce all calculations of time from the Christian associations with which they were loaded, in short, to abolish the Christian year; and enthusiasts were already speaking of "the first year of liberty" and "the first year of the republic" when the national convention took up the matter in 1793. The business of drawing up the new calendar was entrusted to the president of the committee of public instruction, Charles Gilbert Romme (1750-9S), who was aided in the work by the mathematicians Gaspard Alonge and Joseph Louis Lagrange, the poet Fabre d'Egalantine and others. The result of their labours was submitted to the convention in September; it was accepted, and the new calendar became law on Oct. 5, 1793. The new arrangement was regarded as beginning on Sept. 22, 1792, because it was the day of the proclamation of the republic, and, in this year, the day of the autumnal equinox.

By the new calendar the year of 365 days was divided into 12 months. Of 30 days each, every month being divided into three periods of ten days, each of which were called *décades*, and the tenth, or last, day of each decade being a day of rest. It was also proposed to divide the day on the decimal system, but this arrangement was found to be highly inconvenient and it was never put into practice. Five days of the 365 still remained to be dealt with, and these were set aside for national festivals and holidays and were called *Sans-culottides*. They were to fall at the end of the year, i.e., on the five days between Sept. 17 and 21 inclusive. and were called the festivals of virtue, of genius, of labour, of opinion and of rewards. A similar course was adopted with regard 30 the extra day which occurred once in every four years, but ,the first of these was to fall in the year III., *i.e.*, in 1795, and not in 1796, the leap year in the Gregorian calendar. This day was set apart for the festival of the Revolution and was to be the last of the *Sans-culottides*. Each period of four years was to be called a *Franciade*.

Some discussion took place about the nomenclature of the new divisions of time. Eventually this work was entrusted to Fabre d'Églantine. Beginning with the new year on Sept. 22, the autumn months were *Vendémiaire*, the month of vintage, *Brumaire*, the month of fog, and *Frimaire*, the month of frost. The winter months were *Nivôse*, the snowy, *Pluviôse*, the rainy, and *Ventôse*, the windy month; the spring months, Germinal, the month of buds, *Floréal*, the month of flowers, and *Prairial*, the month of meadows; the summer months, *Messidor*, the month of reaping, *Thermidor*, the month of heat, and *Fructidor*, the month of fruit. To the days Fabre d'Églantine gave names which retained the idea of their numerical order, calling them Primedi, Duodi, etc., the last day of the ten, the day of rest, being named Décadi. The new order was

| An II.<br>1793-94   | An III.<br>1794-95  | An IV.<br>1795-96  | An V.<br>1796-97  | An VI.<br>1797–98   | An VII.<br>1798–99  | An VIII.<br>1799–1800  | An IX.<br>1800-01   |  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| I Vendémiaire 22 Sept. 1   I Brumaire 22 Oct.   I Frimaire 21 Nov.   I Nivôse 21 Déc.   I Pluviôse 20 Janv. 1   I Ventôse 19 Févr.   I Germinal 21 Mars   I Floréal 20 Avr.   I Prairial 20 Mai   I Messidor 19 Juin   I Thermidor 18 Août   I Sans-culottides 17 Sept. 1 | 93 22 Sept. 1794   94 22 Oct. ","   97 21 Nov. ","   98 21 Déc. ","   99 20 Janv. 1795   99 70 Janv. 1795   90 70 Janv. 1795   91 Pévr. ","   92 70 Mai ","   93 19 Juin ","   94 19 Juin ","   95 17 Sept. 1795   92 ",","," | 23 Sept. 1795<br>23 Oct. "<br>22 Nov. "<br>22 Déc. "<br>21 Janv. 1796<br>20 Févr. "<br>21 Mars "<br>20 Mai "<br>20 Mai "<br>19 Juin "<br>19 Juin "<br>18 Août "<br>17 Sept. 1796 | 22 Sept. 179<br>22 Oct. 39<br>21 Déc. 39<br>20 Janv. 179<br>19 Févr. 39<br>20 Aav. 77<br>20 Mai 39<br>20 Mai 39<br>19 Juin 39<br>19 Juin 39<br>18 Août 39<br>17 Sept. 176   | 96   22 Sept. 1797     22 Oct.   "     21 Nov.   "     21 Déc.   "     20 Janv. 1798   19 Févr.     97   20 Janv. 1798     97   20 Janv. 1798     97   20 Janv. 1798     97   20 Mai     97   20 Mai     93   94 Mars.     94   95 Juin.     19 Juin.   "     18 Aodt.   "     97   17 Sept. 1798 | 22 Sept. 1798<br>22 Oct. "<br>21 Nov. "<br>21 Déc. "<br>20 Janv. 1799<br>19 Févr. "<br>20 Aav. "<br>20 Mai "<br>19 Juin "<br>19 Juin "<br>18 Août "<br>17 Sept. 1799<br>22 ", " | 23 Sept. 1709<br>23 Oct. "<br>22 Nov. "<br>22 Déc. "<br>21 Janv. 1800<br>20 Févr. "<br>22 Mars "<br>21 Mai "<br>20 Juin "<br>20 Juin "<br>20 Juin "<br>19 Août "<br>18 Sept. 1800  | 23 Sept. 1800<br>23 Oct. "<br>22 Nov. "<br>22 Déc. "<br>21 Janv. 1801<br>20 Févr. "<br>22 Mars "<br>21 Mai "<br>20 Juin "<br>20 Juin "<br>20 Juin "<br>19 Août "<br>18 Sept. 1801 |  |
| An X.<br>1801-02  |   | An XI.<br>1802–03  |   | An XII.<br>1803–04  | An XIII<br>1804-05  | •  | An XIV.<br>1805   |  |
| I Vendémiaire .   I Brumaire .   I Frimaire .   I Frimaire .   I Vivôse .   I Pluviôse .   I Ventôse .   I Cerminal .   I Floréal .   I Prairial .   I Messidor .   I Thermidor .   I Fructidor .   | 23 Septembre 1807<br>23 Octobre ,,<br>22 Novembre ,,<br>22 Décembre ,,<br>21 Janvier 1807<br>20 Février ,,<br>22 Mars ,,<br>21 Avril ,,<br>21 Avril ,,<br>20 Juin ,,<br>20 Juillet ,,<br>10 Août ,,                           | 23 Septembr<br>23 Octobre<br>22 Novembr<br>22 Décembr<br>20 Février<br>22 Mars<br>21 Avril<br>21 Mai<br>20 Juin<br>20 Juin<br>20 Juillet<br>19 Août                              | e 1802 24<br>" 24<br>" 23<br>e " 23<br>1803 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 21<br>" 22<br>" 23<br>1803 22<br>" 23<br>21<br>" 23<br>22<br>" 23<br>24<br>23<br>24<br>23<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24<br>24 | Septembre 1803<br>Octobre ,,<br>Novembre ,,<br>Janvier 1804<br>Février ,,<br>Mars ,,<br>Avril ,,<br>Mai ,,<br>Juin ,,<br>Juin ,,<br>Juillet ,,<br>Août ,,   | 23 Septembre<br>23 Octobre<br>22 Novembre<br>22 Décembre<br>21 Janvier<br>20 Février<br>22 Mars<br>21 Avril<br>21 Mai<br>20 Juin<br>20 Juin<br>20 Juillet<br>19 Août            | 1804   23 Sep     , 23 Oct   22 No     , 22 No   22 No     , 20 No | tembre 1805<br>tobre ,,<br>vembre ,,<br>tembre ,,   |  |
| r Sans-culottides<br>6 "  | 18 Septembre 180  | 2 18 Septembr<br>23 "  | e 1803 18   | Septembre 1804  | 18 Septembre  | 1805   |   |  |

soon in force in France and the new method was employed in all public documents, but it did not last many years. In Sept. 1805 it was decided to restore the Gregorian calendar, and the republican one was officially discontinued on Jan. 1, 1806.

The connecting link between the old and the new calendars is slight and the expression of a date in one calendar in terms of the other is a matter of some difficulty. A simple method of doing this, however, is afforded by the table, which is taken from the article by J. Dubourdieu in *La Grande Encyclopédie*.

Thus Robespierre was executed on 10 Thermidor An II., i.e., July 28, 1794. The insurrection of 12 Germinal An III, took place on April 1, 1795. The famous 18 Brumaire An VIII. fell on Nov. 9, 1799, and the *coup d'état* of 18 Fructidor An V. on Sept. 4, 1797 For a complete concordance of the Gregorian and the republican calendars see Stokvis, Manuel d'histoire, vol. iii. (Leyden, 1889), also G. Villain, "Le Calendrier republicain," in *La Revolution Française* for 1884-85.