
OLD AND NEW STYLE.¹

It is proper to explain what is meant by *old* and *new* style. —The new style was adopted by Great Britain in 1751, when a law was passed enacting that the year 1752 should begin on the 1st day of January; that the 3d of September should be reckoned the 14th, and that the intermediate eleven days should be omitted in the calendar. In the old, or Julian style, the year began the 25th of March, and contained 365*d.* 6*h.*; in the new, or Gregorian style, the year began the 1st of January, and contained 365*d.* 5*h.* 49*m.* 12*s.*; differing from the true tropical year twenty-two seconds only; and making a difference in the two styles of one day in 129 years. One is made nearly conformable to the other by dropping one day from the old, and adding one to the new style in each century, excepting every fourth, whose centennial year is considered leap-year. The new style was first adopted by Catholics in 1582; and not generally by Protestants till some time afterwards, and not yet [1835] by Russia. To meet the wishes of both, it was generally customary from the first settlement of this country till 1752, though not uniformly, to give a double date from January 1st to March 25. Thus, January 9, 1725, was written January 9, 1724-5, or 172⁴/₅. March was also reckoned the first month, April the second, May the third, &c., and dates were sometimes made accordingly. Thus, 18th 4mo. 1667, or “18.4.67,” was 18th June, 1667. In the preceding history, the dates are given as if the year began on the first of January, in all cases are given as if the year began on the first of January, in all cases where it could be ascertained, and the latter of all double dates between that time and the 25th March is used. Thus, January 9, 172⁴/₅, is given January 9, 1725. In other respects the dates anterior to 1752 are in old style. To ascertain the day in new style at the present time [1835], corresponding to any date in the old style, it is necessary to add ten days from 1500 to 1700 (1600 being a leap-year), and eleven days from 1700 to 1752. Thus, the 2d of September, 1635, the date of the incorporation of Concord, will correspond with the 12th September, 1835; and July 3, 1735, the date of the incorporation of Acton, with the 14th of July, 1835. Want of careful attention to double dates, and difference in style, has occasioned many mistakes; and among others, the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim fathers at Plymouth has been erroneously celebrated on the 22d, instead of the 21st of December, the latter being the true date corresponding with the old style.

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APPENDIX. — No. V. Notice of the Rev. Samuel Stearns.

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