

## THE CALENDAR

When Julius Caesar became Emperor of Rome, he found the calendar then in use to be unsatisfactory. With the aid of an Egyptian astronomer, Sosigenes, Caesar established in 45B.C. what has since been called the Julian Calendar. It was based on a year of exactly  $365 \frac{1}{4}$  days.

Later, more careful calculations showed that a year consists of 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 49.7 seconds, which is about 11 minutes less than the original calculations. By 1582 this error added up to about 10 days. So in March of that year Pope Gregory XIII abolished the Julian Calendar and replaced it with what has come to be known as the Gregorian Calendar. In doing this, Pope Gregory ordered the elimination of ten days from the year 1582 by having October 15 follow October 4.

It was not until 1752 that England and her Colonies adopted the Gregorian Calendar. By that time an elimination of 11 days was required to make the change. So in that year the first two days of September were of the Julian Calendar (Old Style) and the rest of the month was of the Gregorian Calendar (New Style), with September 14 following September 2 to omit the 11 days.

SEPTEMBER					1752	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

George Washington was born on February 11, 1732, Old Style. When his birthday came around in 1753, he decided not to celebrate it until he had added back the missing 11 days; hence, he celebrated his twenty-first birthday on February 22 instead of February 11. He continued to celebrate his birthday on February 22 during the remainder of his life. Thus, we also commemorate his birthday on that date.

Most of the years from now on will contain 365 days. Every year, however, whose number is exactly divisible by four will contain 366 days, except for the last year of each century; this is a leap year only when the number of the century is exactly divisible by four, except the years 4000, 8000, and  $n(4000)$ , which will be regarded as common years of 365 days.