

already noticed the difficulty of chronology, ~~but~~ that they did not have a system in ancient times in any country of considering events from years 1, 2, 3, 4 on up to several hundred. No such system was used in any country prior to 312 B. C. Consequently, the systems of mentioning time are rather involved often and often not very good. They are about as poor as our system in our country of giving weights and measures and lengths, etc., not worked out <sup>with</sup> ~~in~~ any clear and simple and reasonable <sup>1</sup>bas~~is~~s. So that means that in the history of any ancient country we have to take that data and try to figure out what date things happened according to our present system which was utterly unknown at that time.

One of the expedients they used most commonly in ancient countries for saying when a thing happened ~~is~~ to say that it happened in a certain year during a certain king's reign, and that of course is very, very simple. You could divide history into the reigns of the different kings. You could say George I reigned twenty-six years, and then George II reigned three years, and George III reigned seventy-five years, and George IV reigned twenty-five years; and if you said then that it was in the third year of George III's ~~sixty~~ reign, all you would have to do would be to figure out twenty-six, twenty-nine, thirty-second year. It looks extremely simple, but it isn't. The thing that keeps it from being simple is that for one thing some of these <sup>1</sup>king~~s~~s had a very bad habit of ~~it~~ dying on other dates than the last day of the year, and consequently you couldn't always tell just when to start a new king's reign because the beginning of the year and the beginning of the reign wouldn't coincide.

Now supposing that ~~George~~ George I had died on the 29th of July and George II became king on the 30th of July. Now if ~~xxxxxxx~~ something happens in this year, what year are you going to call it? Are you going to call it the 26th year of George I or the 1st year of George II? You can well imagine that people's ideas may differ. Somebody would say ~~this~~ this is the 21st year of George I's reign; it still will continue as such until the end of the year.