

Rev. H. Grattan Guinness, D.D.

Dr. Guinness, who died on the 20th of June, was an original Member of our Association, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1891. Born near Dublin in the month of August 1835, he completed his education at New College, London, and devoted his life to the study of Biblical history, chronology, and prophecy, on which his works are well known; also to the organisation of Christian missions (especially to the Congo), in which he was assisted by his wife, their headquarters being at Bow, where he founded the East London Institute for Home and Foreign Missions.

His interest in astronomy arose from the bearing of the records of ancient eclipses and astronomical phenomena generally upon chronological questions, and this led to his publication of "Astronomic Tables" in 1895, which was intended to form the second volume of "Creation centered in Christ." Our concern here is only with the tables themselves, in which great care was taken to secure accuracy by obtaining assistance from the staff of the Nautical Almanac, so that the resulting tables are often exceedingly useful in many historical inquiries, whether sacred or general. The times of all the vernal equinoxes and new moons are given from B.C. 1622 (that date being taken as "the probable date of the exodus," to which we must demur, it being much anterior to the Ussher date, itself probably too early) to A.D. 1934; also the times of the full moons of all lunar eclipses from B.C. 1207 (that date being taken because with it Oppolzer commenced his "Canon der Finsternisse," with which these have been carefully compared for verification) to A.D. 1934, with which

the Canon closes. In the principal table the dates are given in the old style of the calendar ; but a supplementary one gives them also in new style from A.D. 1752, when the alteration was effected in England. As Dr. Guinness's principal object was the elucidation of sacred chronology, the times of the phenomena given in his Tables are furnished according to civil time at Jerusalem.

W. T. L.