

daind, That, to take away from henceforth all Doubt and Ambiguity, that might arise hereupon, the Day increasing in the Leap-Year shall be accounted for one Year, so that because of that Day none shall be prejudiced that is impleaded, but it shall be taken and reckoned of the same month **37** * wherein it groweth; and that Day, and the Day next going before, shall be accounted for one Day. And therefore we do command you, that from henceforth you do cause this to be published afore you, and be observed. Witness myself at *Westminster*, &c.

tili in ipso anno, ita quod propter diem illum non occasionentur aliqui implacitati, set sit, & habeatur de mense illo in quo excrescit; & contineatur dies *ille* excrescens in integritate anni predicti, & computetur dies ille, & dies proxime precedens pro unico die. Et ideo vobis mandamus, quod hoc coram vobis publicari, & de cetero faciatis observari.

Teste me ipso apud Westm. &c. Anno regni regis H. quadragesimo quarto.

Brac. 359.

The Bissextile is the day added every fourth year to the month of February in order to make the year agree with the course of the earth round the sun. In the Roman Calendar it was fixed on the *sixth* day before the calends of March, and this day was counted twice. The first was called *bissextus prior* and the second *bissextus posterior*, the latter, however, being properly called the *bissextile day*. This import of the word is now obsolete, for we intercalate the 29th day of February every fourth year which is called leap-year, but the term is still retained.

The astronomical year or period of the earth's revolution around the sun is composed of 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes and a fraction. The civil year consists commonly of 365 days. But, as just observed, every fourth year we intercalate the 29th day of February, though for greater accuracy we make only one leap-year out of every fourth centenary year; thus the years 1700 and 1800 were not leap-years nor will 1900 be a leap-year, but the year 2000 will be a leap-year. These leap-years therefore consist properly of 366 days. By this statute however the increasing day in the leap-year together with the preceding day shall be accounted for one day only, and the year thus becomes in law a determinate period of 365 days. See *Agnew v. Bank of Gettysburg*, 2 H. & G. 478, where the point arose, but this Statute was not referred to.