

For the News.

## THE ZODIAC AND THE SIGNS.

WELL DOCTOR, I suppose you will have no objections to my occupying a space in your columns; and so I will say a few words upon the zodiac and the signs, which occasionally hang round the 'Man in the Moon' in the Almanac, to the wonder & gratification of her who is about to wean the child; or him who regards the signs of the times in his flocks and herds. But before I begin to give my views, let me introduce the signs and names in English and Latin.

Aries, the Ram, ♈, governs the head; Taurus, the Bull, ♉, the neck; Gemini, the Twins, the Arms, ♊; Cancer, the Crab, ♋, the breast; Leo, the Lion, ♌, the heart; Virgo, the Virgin, ♍, the bowels; Libra, the Scales, ♎, the reins; Scorpio, the Scorpion, ♏, the loins; Sagittarius, the Archer, ♐, the thighs; Capricornus, the Goat, ♑, the knees; Aquarius, the water-bearer, ♒, the legs; and Pisces, the Fishes, ♓, the feet.

All ready. The word ZODIAC is of Greek origin, and, besides a ring in the heavens, means a collection of animals, or a painting of animals; undoubtedly such as torment the Almanacs, and give the Dutch\* such a hatred to "Spooks." The Egyptians, and Babylonians invented the signs, and in all probability, for the purpose of matching Abraham, who promulgated the pure science of the heavens. One strong reason in favor of the signs, is, they are the exact resemblance of the fundamental belief of sectarian religion—"a God without body, parts, or passions, beyond the bounds of time or space:"—for the constellations, where these signs were located, are "fixed stars," or suns; to arrive at which, many astronomers have conjectured, that a cannon ball, flying at the rate of a mile in eight seconds, would require centuries of time. But to make the matter plainer: look with the naked eye, or with a telescope, about seven in the evening, in the month of February, and you will discover, a little west of the meridian and south of the zenith, two small stars called Aries; they are but a short distance westward of the seven stars; a little to the north-east of the seven stars, is 'Taurus, the bull's eye; still further north-east, are "Castor and Pollux" in Gemini, and so on, but the awful signs are not there; they have fallen back 30 degrees: so that the Egyptian Ram, if he is ever found, will be found where the fish swam off in the upper deep.

The moon is the particular controller of the signs, according to Heathen, Egyptian, and Gentile mythology, for she passes under the fixed stars, and round her circuit in 27 days, 7 hours, 43 minutes, and 5 seconds, which, if she went on her course regular, would occupy, for the 12 signs;—2 days, 6 hours, 38 minutes, and 37 1-2 seconds: but as the "world rolls on her wings," too; she does not change only once in 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, and 3 seconds, and will not occupy the same place for 18 years, 228 days, and 9 hours. As she is only 240,000 miles from the earth, the influence of the nearest fixed star, must be some time in travelling down, even if it came as swift as light; and its path, (as the moon follows the earth, in her orbit or path, 600,000,000 of miles round the sun once a year,) would be as winding as a hemlock rail, or the worm of a still. The nearest "fixed star," or constellation, for the pictures in the Almanac, are supposed to be about 20,000,000,000,000, (20 trillions) of miles from this earth: the sun is about 95,000,000, (millions) of miles, and

what effect can either have over children and animals? Where are the heavenly scorpions; the universe virgins; and the space boat for the waterman? The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. The retinæ of worlds above, around, throughout the regions of infinity, have influence one with another, under the supervision of God the Father:—But as to the petty influence of the signs, attraction and repulsion, as taught by the Literati, it is mockery. Man was created upright, but he has sought out so many inventions, he has lost the truth, and gropes for the wall at noon-day.

Children should be taught the true principles of the starry heavens. That there are eternities many; systems many; worlds many; heavens many; Lords many; Gods many, and peoples many; and that all are governed, directed and upheld in their eternities, centuries, years, courses, days, times, and seasons, BY A GOD: and that, when a man of God, like Joshua, said to the sun and moon "stand still," the only obedience was in the angel that commanded, to do the will of God, independent of gravitation. More anon.

W. W. PHELPS.

\*They made the first Almanacs.

To the Editor of the Deseret News.

DEAR SIR:—I have often thought that the mind of man is the only perpetual motion that can be discovered; but be it as it may, I know that if a machine of human invention would work with the same facility and with the same gift of continuance as our minds, we would pronounce it very near the perfect, and capstone of all inventions.

A few evenings ago, while lying on my pillow, this perpetual motion of mind would keep going and would keep me from sleeping. If these thoughts of mine would be worthy of a place in your paper, they are at your service.

I was busy ruminating on the prospects before us, the ruinous effect to us as a community in our depending on imported dry goods, &c., especially as money becomes scarcer. It seemed to me that we should arouse ourselves from our lethargy, and shake off the torpor in which we have enveloped ourselves, and put forth our whole strength to work a reformation or revolution in our affairs.

How can we do it? By our united efforts.

Napoleon Buonaparte (at the time when France was threatened on every side, and when it looked as if she would be cut off from all communication with the West India Islands, &c.,) laid his plans for internal improvements, and he succeeded, so that France, at the present time, manufactures more sugar, silk, &c., than she can consume. If he could succeed in such an undertaking, where he had to compete with every obstacle that could be thrown in the way of man, and also amongst a people of diversified opinion; why cannot we, who ought to have but one faith.

The first thing to ascertain is, what the resources of our valley are? What can we raise or cultivate that will add to our comfort and that will turn to account and enable us to do away with imported goods.

Iron, I may say, the greatest of all our necessities, we have within our boundaries, together with coal, in the same vicinity.

Flax and hemp can be raised here with the

same success that wheat or any other article of cultivation.

The sugar beet is one of the most lucrative articles that a farmer can plant.

This is one of the finest countries that can be found for sheep, and all we will want is good shepherds to attend them, which I have not the least doubt can be found amongst some of our Scotch and English friends.

The bark in the canyons, and the shomack on the mountain sides are very good for tanning; they have been tried and found to be almost as strong as the eastern hemlock, (I mean the pine in the canyons,) and as the shomack used in the states. Why then should we import our leather, while we have hides rotting in our yards by the thousands?

We have rags enough to keep a good paper mill in operation, by that means save an enormous expense.

If we should want cotton in the raw material, we will be able to procure it in a short time from Los Angeles; also the silk worm would be one of the best articles for our brethren in the southern settlements to cultivate; and as Iron county is not 500 miles from any of their settlements; if manufactories were put up in Iron county, where the machinery could be manufactured, we would have our cotton and silk goods, by our own labor.

We have in our midst, smelters, founders, machinest of every kind, weavers, cotton spinners and printers, tanners, silk weavers, bleachers, paper manufacturers, cutlers, &c., equal to any in the world. We can have our flax made into the finest linen, equal to the Irish; and what looks better than linen sheets, pants, coats for summer, &c. The hemp can be spun here into ropes just as well as it can 1000 miles east of us.

We can just as well manufacture the finest cloths, blankets, etc. here, as to procure them in Great Britain, or the states; for our weavers are from thence, and are as good as any in that country.

Instead of paying 150\$ for a cooking stove, and other articles of iron, in proportion; we can get them here for much less, and not have to pay cash down, but exchange our produce for them.

Now to get this system adopted is what is wanted; I therefore humbly suggest that a society be established in this city, called the "Deseret Internal Improvement Society," having a president, secretary, and treasurer; together with members, who shall pay, say \$2.50 per annum., which will entitle him to have any article, the product or manufacture of this state entered at a general fancy fair or exhibition, to be held once a year in Great Salt Lake city, at some time specified. The president, &c., to appoint judges who shall award prizes to the individual or individuals who shall present the best article of any kind at the exhibition.

That this exhibition be held in a convenient place where every article can be shown to good effect, and that each person pay a sum of, say 50 cents for admission; this sum to be appropriated for prizes, etc.

It has been reiterated again and again in my hearing, that a weaver cannot take the wool and make it into cloth as cheap as it can be imported. That flax cannot be made into linen as cheap as it can be brought here, etc., etc., etc.

This is true to a certain extent, but let us be drained of money, and if store-keepers have these articles for half the price, but