

CORRESPONDENCE.

Exhortation to Diligence and Faithfulness.

READING, Berkshire,
England, May 25, 1876.Messrs. D. S. Andrews and William
Chatwin, Santaquin, U. T.

Dear Brethren—I perused your epistle, of March 4, with a great amount of joy and satisfaction, for it caused me to more fully realize the blessing of the Gospel in inspiring us to look to the interest of each and all, and binding us together in that brotherly love which the spirit of the Gospel alone can bring, and which the world knows not of, and never can until they follow in the footsteps of our Lord, and begin to manifest their belief by their works.

I count it as another opening the Lord has made for me to add my mite in doing good, for which I thank him. Although I am for the present denied the privilege and inexpressible pleasure of meeting with my young brethren in their associations, yet absence does not diminish my interest in them, but quite to the contrary, for absence is fuel to the blaze of interest God has blessed me with. When your letter was received informing me of your organization and the good times you were having in meeting together for so wise a purpose, I was filled with joy, and raised my heart in praises to God for the work he is doing among the youth. Surely the Lord has set his hand to reform and educate the future hope of Zion, and prepare them for the work that is so soon to fall upon their shoulder; he has commenced the work that will draw out the latent intellects and powers of Zion's youth and fill them with his power, that the weak things of Zion may confound the wisdom of the world. He will also bring the young brethren to a realization and an appreciation of the advantages with which they are surrounded, to which they are now partially blind, through inexperience.

Your mode of procedure I very much admire, and if you will but continue your course under the direction of those placed over you in the priesthood, you will surprise yourselves in the progress you will make. One thing you must cultivate from the start is unflinching patience and immovable firmness, laying first your plans and rules by the spirit of righteousness and then never departing from them. The Association should be the place for instruction upon not only spiritual matters, but upon every principle that will conduce to your mutual advancement in the Kingdom, both temporally and spiritually. God's Kingdom is a literal affair. It circumscribes all truth and embraces all principles that tend to exalt the human family and lead them in the ways of life and salvation, and it becomes the children of the Lord to come to a unity of faith in temporal as well as spiritual matters, and the associations of mutual improvement are the places for them to be introduced to the young, that their minds may be prepared for all things and every principle that God has or will yet reveal through his priesthood. The first thing to be done is to bring the young brethren to realize the importance of the work in which they are engaged. When they are brought to this realization it will inspire them to take greater interest in obtaining knowledge concerning the principles of the Gospel. When they are awakened to this, not having to overcome that old enemy of Satan—tradition, hell's artillery may follow, but they will roll on the Kingdom more and more rapidly and tear down the strong holds of his Satanic majesty, and Zion will rise and the righteous rejoice. Brethren, calmly consider these facts, and let your labors be untiring, and sanctify yourselves to the service of your God, for all you possess is his, and show him that you realize it. Let there be no idlers among you, but all with single eye try to serve his Maker best. Live up to the covenants you have made with God, and willingly and cheerfully perform every duty required at your hands, and when the word of the Lord comes to you through his servants never shrink from obedience; for if you do you deny yourself great blessings.

In the settling of the barren desert the educational advantages were comparatively nothing, but through the blessings of the Almighty they

are now numerous, and now the Priesthood is turning its attention more to check the untutored course of the young and direct them in the paths of refinement and education; and like all other things they have set out to do, they have gone at it in earnest, and with a determination to accomplish the object, and soon you will see the now unpolished jewels rise and shine and the wisdom of inspiration drown the knowledge of the world.

Were I with you I could not say more to you than to live up and attend to your duties in the Kingdom, be punctual in all your callings pertaining to its advancement, and carry that dignity with you that will repel the very appearance of evil, and that dignity is obtained by honoring your priesthood and working with an eye single to the glory of God. Don't give way to little weaknesses, for as pennies make pounds, so by indulging little transgressions they grow to great crimes. We all have imperfections, and by subduing these is how we gain our eternal reward. Surely, surrounded by the servants of God and receiving one constant stream of instruction, given under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, the young brethren and sisters ought to overcome evil influences. But we must taste of the bitter before we can appreciate the sweet. You, brethren, have a mission at home, beginning with yourselves, and extending to the doing of good to all with whom you are associated, by introducing and practising every principle of morality that is suggested to your mind by the spirit of God, or that you obtain through reading good books. This is a noble mission, and when honorably fulfilled, brings forth untold blessings. Now lose no interest in your work, but seek to God by prayer for his power and support, and honor your priesthood and obtain the blessings by so doing. Rally around the standard of truth and let your light shine and your voices ever be heard in defence of truth and morality and denouncing immorality and learn to love the banner of God's kingdom, and ever be faithful soldiers enlisted in its service, putting yourselves subject to the officers of the kingdom, and be ever found doing the works of righteousness, and show the Lord your desire to make good use of the talents he has given you, that they may be increased unto you.

I remain your brother in the gospel of salvation,
A. O. SMOOT, Jr.

The Moon and the Weather.

The notion that the moon exerts an influence on the weather is so deeply rooted that notwithstanding all the attacks which have been made against it since meteorology has been seriously studied, it continues to retain its hold upon us. And yet there never was a popular superstition more utterly without a basis than this one. If the moon really did possess any power over the weather, that power could only be exercised in one of three ways—by reflection of the sun's rays, by attraction, or by emanation. Now, as the brightest light of a full moon is never equal in intensity or quantity to that which is reflected towards us by a white cloud on a summer day, it can scarcely be pretended that weather is affected by such a cause. That the moon does exert attraction on us is manifested—we see its workings in the tides; but though it can move water, it is most unlikely that it can do the same to air, for the specific gravity of the atmosphere is so small that there is nothing to be attracted. Laplace calculated, indeed, that the joint attraction of the sun and moon together could not stir the atmosphere at a quicker rate than five miles a day. As for lunar emanations, not a sign of them has ever been discovered. The idea of an influence being produced by the phases of the moon is therefore based on no recognizable cause whatever. Furthermore it is now distinctly shown that no variations at all really occur in weather at the moment of the changes of quarter any more than at any other ordinary times. Since the establishment of meteorological stations all over the earth, it has been proved by millions of observations that there is no simultaneousness whatever between the supposed effects. The whole story is a fancy and a superstition which has been handed down to us as uncontradicted, and which we have accepted as true because our forefathers believed it.

The moon exercises no more influence on weather than herrings do on the Government of Switzerland.
—Blackwood.

HON. S. S. FENN.—The course of this gentleman in the contest with Tom Bennett for the seat in the House has been manly and wholly honorable throughout. He relied solely upon the facts in the case and an honest Congress to do him justice. He has won no fight, because there was none to win—the case was too plain. But that he and his friends have been subjected to no little annoyance by the daring rascalities of Bennett and his tools, there can be no doubt. Bennett started in to be delegate through fair or foul means, and failing in the former he left nothing undone to accomplish his aims by the latter, and resorted to the most contemptible tricks of thievery to carry out his purpose. For the first time in fifteen years honest Congressmen have been elected, and justice was done in every contested case that came before them, and Bennett of course was kicked out. It is a source of extreme gratification to know that Mr. Fenn and the people of this Territory have not been defrauded of their rights, and a still greater pleasure the fact that fraud in election matters will no longer be countenanced by Congress.—Idaho World.

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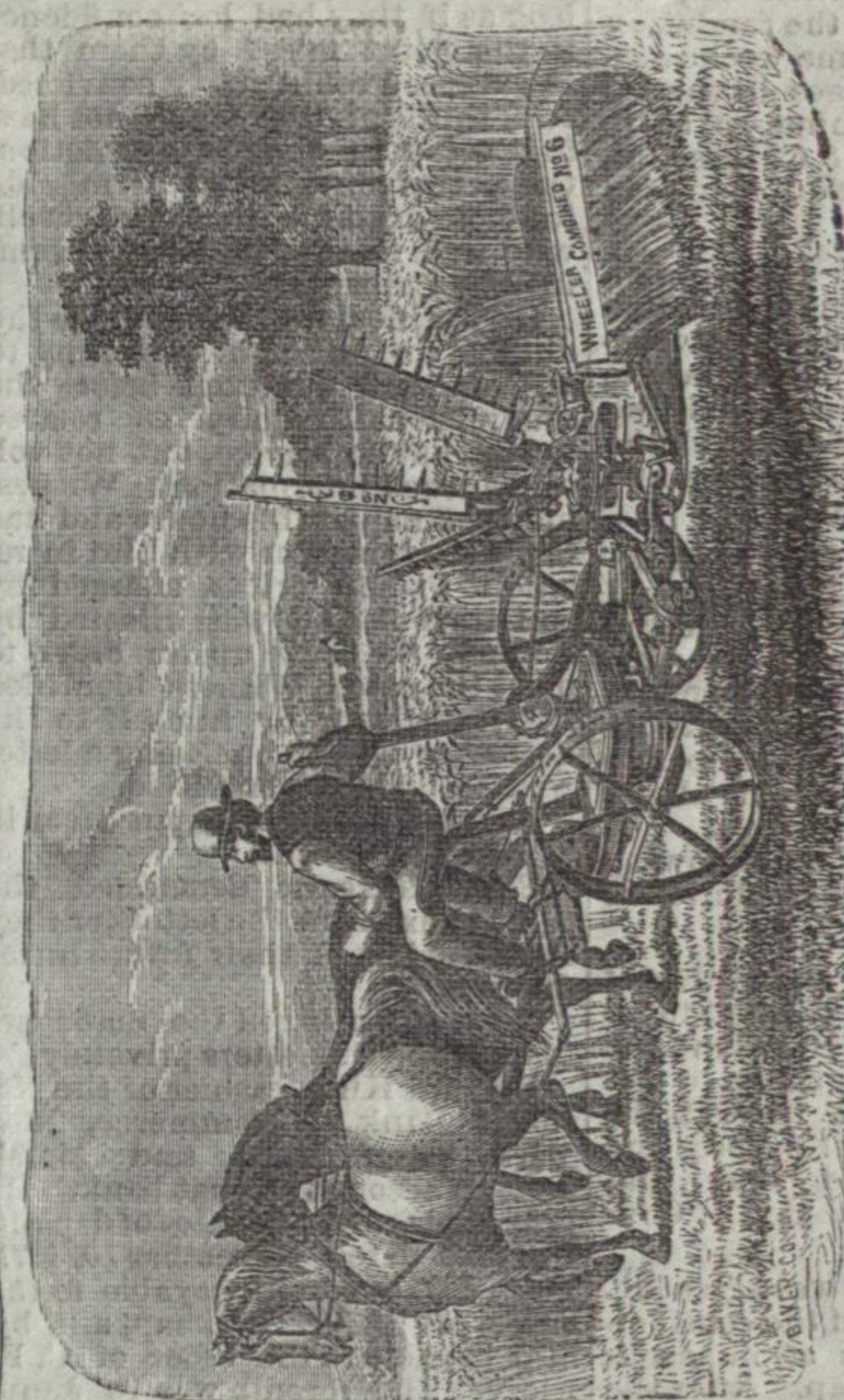
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