

burlesque of reason;—I ONLY GUESSED AT IT.

When Jesus rebuked the wind, did he reprove his Father in the heavens, or find fault with himself for making the wind boisterous? neither; if Satan is "prince of the power of the air,"—HE RAISED THE WIND. The wind blows when it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but cannot tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: and remember the wind brings the storms, not the moon.

I have witnessed more than six hundred changes of the moon in fifty years, during which time not less than ten thousand changes of weather have happened by night and by day, among which were snow in summer, and thunder showers in winter; and yet, before, and after all; when true philosophy, which is TRUTH, was consulted, I never found a man of this world, that knew what a day would bring forth, a year, a month, or a week ahead, unless revealed by the spirit of prophecy.

Some people talk of wet moons and dry ones; and what kind were those, when, in old times, it rained not for the space of three years and six months? And what influence will the moon, or the almanac makers have on the weather, when the four angels stand at the four corners of the earth, holding the winds till the servants of God are sealed?—The secret of time is with God.

W. W. PHELPS.

For the News.

DEAR SIR:—"Evil communications corrupt good manners," is what the good book says; and the more experience, the more the proof of the truth of this saying.

Amongst the many which it has been my lot to be cast, I have seen that the spirit which exists within a house or a neighborhood, is partaken of more or less by every individual who is within the sphere of the same.

I cannot help but observe when a trial comes over any individual or house, that if the neighbors are men and women of God, they will comfort the person, and peace, joy, and love will take the place of hard feelings and sorrow; when this is the case, the blessing of God will rest ten fold on those persons; but when we find that the neighbors are like Job's comforters, not having that spirit which is peace and joy, they bring sorrow and lamentation on the person or persons whom they condole with. The little of the spirit of God which they possess, will be extinguished, and they will be left to grope in the darkness, and every principle of truth and righteousness will look to them like a hydra's head.

When I live in the last named neighborhood, I always pray that I may get out quickly, or that the persons who are of that spirit may remove, and when I cannot accomplish either of these objects, I generally tell such persons that my house was built for my family and my friends; but that I cannot call any person a friend, who delights to make persons miserable by their sympathetic feelings, which instils poison in every word they utter: therefore, I want them not in, or about my house.

Again: if our every day companions are such as are governed by the spirit of God, we feel the influence; and good feelings will grow into the strongest attachment of brotherly love, and we cannot help learning truth from the youngest member who belongs to the church of Christ.

If such be the case with the spirit of God, why not when our time is taken up by those who know not God, nor keep his commandments; I care not whether in or out of the church? If we do not take care, we will drink of the same spirit, before we are aware of it, and "evil communications will corrupt good manners."

It rests, then, on the Saints to look well and see what company they or their families keep. They should know that the spirit of virtue, honor, truth, and integrity, governs them; and that they are of those who have proved themselves by their good works, (of long duration,) that all they have is on the altar, and that they are willing instruments in the hands of the Almighty to do His commandments, and carry out all his requirements; that, by those means, we may earn a crown which fadeth not away; and that we are worthy to be Saviors on Mount Zion, to save ourselves, families, and all who appertain unto us in this life, and those who are gone beyond the vale.

Respectfully yours,

HOMER.

DESERET NEWS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1851.

WHEAT.

FARMERS OF DESERET, it is high time to begin to look after your wheat crops. A moment's reflection, on the past and present, is sufficient to stimulate every citizen of the State to the utmost exertion on this important subject. From the first settlement of the mountain vallies, to the season now passing, want, or fear of want, was looking in at our doors, while hunger and scarcity were looking out; and, meeting on the threshold, greeted each other as old acquaintances, but unwilling friends. And why this? The country was new and untried. Year after year of toil and experiment were necessary to locate farms, erect fences, and devise the most judicious method of cultivation, to produce an abundance for the immense population here, and coming, and travellers passing through; and previous to the last harvest, there were not laborers enough in the vallies, to accomplish the desired object; but, by the great blessings of the heavens, on the experience and diligence of the faithful the past year, sufficient was produced to cause fear, hunger, want, and scarcity, to shake hands and depart in peace, leaving all to enjoy, to their fullest satisfaction, the comforts and blessings of tables loaded with bread, while the mountain rills caused their cups to overflow with pure water; which are the promised blessings, although our heavenly Father has given us in connexion therewith, many others. And what is the effect? Joyful hearts and cheerful countenances surround us on every hand. We have bread to eat and to spare. And is this to continue? Yes! There is an abundance of wheat, if taken care of, till wheat can grow again.

And what then? Famine will again be af-

ter us, unless we look after our crops right early, quickly, effectually. Some may suppose that the immigration was so extensive, and the consequent increase of labor so great the past season, that an abundance will be produced this season, with little exertion; but have not eaters multiplied in a still greater ratio? Certainly, if we calculate that mechanics shall go to their several callings, for the purpose of multiplying houses, (which are almost as necessary as food, during a cold winter,) and of increasing domestic manufactures generally, all of which is very desirable and necessary, for the growth and final prosperity of any country. And further, many who have recently arrived, have located on new ground, where, with all their necessary labors in building, and otherwise providing for their families, it cannot be expected they should produce much more grain than others did, in a similar situation two or three years since; while many others, together with many of the older citizens, have removed entirely to new settlements, at considerable distance, which has occupied the time they might otherwise have employed in preparing for ploughing; and from such but little can reasonably be expected this year, more than to raise their own supplies.

Cultivated land has increased very little since last harvest; and there is very little seed in the ground at this time, when compared with last year at this time; and with the prospect of immigration, this season, far greater than the former season, what is the duty of the citizens of Deseret? What the most important mission now to be committed to the elders of Israel in the vallies of the mountains? The raising of wheat, to feed those that are here, and also those to whom we are stretching forth our arms, and crying come and help us build up the waste places in the mountains of Ephraim. We have said come, and you shall find food for yourselves and your households; therefore, if we have not already begun, it is time to begin to fence, and ditch, and prune, and make every thing ready for the plough, against the time when frost shall leave; for the winter is past, and the time of seeding draws nigh; and greater exertions are now needed by all, to insure an abundant harvest and supply for all who will want to eat thereof the coming year,—than was required the past year.

Now is the time for drawing poles, repairing ploughs, drags, rakes, harnesses, yokes, &c., &c., so that when frost shall disappear, there will be nothing to hinder sowing all the grain possible while seed time last; then water the same as it shall need. Sow all you can; and this is now the great mission of the elders in Deseret; no matter if you cannot harvest one half of it, there will be help enough here by the time of harvest.