

THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

LOCUSTS AND BREADSTUFFS.

THE present Spring, so far, has brought every indication of a very fruitful season. The young vegetation from planted seeds; the upspringing grain; and the wealth of fruit blossoms declare that if nothing were to act more injuriously than usual upon our crops, we would have a more than ordinarily heavy harvest. A great breadth of land, too, is under cultivation; and the labors of the husbandman have, up to the present, been much blessed.

To all human appearance, the only cause there is to imagine that we will not have a plentiful harvest, is the presence of the locusts, or grasshoppers. They have hatched out in vast numbers, in various parts of the Territory; and, as they have already commenced their destructive operations, fears are entertained by many that they will totally destroy the present crops. There are no good reasons on which to found such a belief. On the contrary there are strong reasons to believe that, with the exercise of wisdom and energy, sufficient breadstuffs will be raised in the counties where they are most numerous. And this, even, if they should not decrease, and if they should be longer reaching their full growth and taking their flight, than is now expected. Last season, Cache Valley suffered very severely from their ravages, yet there was considerable raised through the county.

By saving seed and planting late, crops may be raised even after they take their flight, in those places where they are most numerous and most destructive. Seed should be kept on hand for this purpose, of those things that mature quickly; and when the crops are destroyed in a place, the ground should be re-opened and fresh sown, that another crop may be grown. In 1855 when the grasshoppers were here, many farmers raised good crops of corn; and there is no reason why it cannot be done this season, and crops of other kinds of produce as well, that will grow quickly and mature early. Besides, there are portions of the Territory that are nearly, and other portions that are altogether, free from the locusts; and in them a surplus may be raised which will help to bread the inhabitants of those places that may suffer most severely.

Considering these things calmly, there is no ground for any panic, nor for any sudden and heavy rise in the price of provisions; unless those who hold large quantities of breadstuffs should design taking them out of the Territory. Within the past week flour has risen in this city about a third of its previous price.

There seems no cause for this advance just now, only through an excitement about prospective scarcity. Speculators are always quick to take advantage of such things. They trade and grow fat upon the necessities and leanness of their neighbors. And though we should be slow to believe that speculation had anything to do with this matter, we have been given to understand that it has. Should those who have flour stored away, try to hold it, as has been done in other countries, until absolute want would draw an exorbitant price for it, they are taking a course which will not work them future prosperity. We would not like to believe such a thing of any man until we were forced to do so; but if any in our midst strive to make capital of the sufferings of the people here, they may be assured it will be remembered against them.

There may be demands made upon the resources of the Territory for breadstuffs, which will be legitimate and which, if they are made, should be met, as far as we have surplus. But no right-minded man would seek to bring suffering upon any portion of the community to promote his individual interests and increase his wealth.

If those who have breadstuff to sell, will act righteously and honestly by the people with regard to it, they will merit and enjoy the confidence and respect of all good men. And if the people will act wisely and exercise faith, we see no cause for indulging in forebodings of the future. It is cheering to know that the people throughout the Territory are acting as they do. In most places where these destructive insects are, they are planting in faith, and making their calculations to plant again, should the crops be destroyed. This is the course that all should pursue, and leave the result

trustingly in the hands of the Lord. He can direct the winged armies of locusts whither He will; and can preserve His people from evils of every kind.

PEA PLANTING—VARIETY OF VEGETABLES.

SOME weeks ago we published a communication over the signature of a "Practical Farmer," in which the writer suggested that peas should be extensively planted this season. This suggestion was made in view of our land being troubled with grasshoppers, the writer asserting that those insects had no taste for pea vines. Since the grasshoppers have hatched and commenced their ravages we have heard of their destroying a portion of a field of peas on Big Cañon Creek. This instance has been quoted to us as an evidence that the "Practical Farmer's" suggestion was unreliable. There may be other instances where the grasshoppers have eaten off peas; but we have not heard of them. We have noticed, however, in our own garden that they do not manifest the same liking for peas that they do for other vegetation. The peas are untouched, while other things, planted alongside of them, are unsparingly eaten. Others, with whom we have conversed, say that this is the case also in their gardens.

Grasshoppers exercise considerable discrimination in the selection of their food. Where there is a scarcity of vegetation they will doubtless eat any thing that is growing; but, where there is a great variety, they select those things which are most toothsome. Last fall they invariably selected the ripest peaches first, and seemingly only ate the rest when they could get nothing better. If the pea is a vegetable for which they have no liking, it is possible it may, in many instances, escape their ravages. Peas are very excellent as an article of diet. They furnish a large amount of nutriment for their bulk, and if they were more widely cultivated, and more freely eaten, not only in the summer while they are green, but after they have ripened, they would furnish a healthful and palatable variety for our tables. We call the attention of our farmers, and those who have gardens, to this subject, and if the experience of any will throw light upon it, we would be pleased to publish their ideas for the benefit of others. There should be an extra effort made this season to raise as great a variety of food as possible. There is no danger of any article of food that will help to sustain man and beast being a drug in our market this year. Should our harvest be extraordinary in fruitfulness our depleted bins will require it all to replenish them as they should be.

Greater attention should be paid by our agriculturists to the cultivation of vegetables than has been in the past. Root crops especially are too much neglected. On many farmers' tables scarcely any other vegetable than the potatoe makes its appearance. Turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets, cabbages, cauliflower, rhubarb, asparagus and celery ought to be cultivated much more extensively than at present. There are not half enough of these articles eaten for the health of the people. Of course, if farmers do not raise a variety of vegetables for their own use, the other classes, who do not follow agriculture, must go short. In a country like ours, in which every variety of vegetable and fruit can be raised of a most excellent quality, it is a shiftless way of living to be almost entirely confined to a bread and meat diet. No wonder that so many people, especially those of sedentary habits, are troubled with a complaint which the aridity of the climate and the dryness and sameness of the food eaten here make so common.

Our fine flour has killed off, at a very rapid rate, the Indians who have used it as a diet. The effect has been more sudden and marked upon them than upon the whites who have been accustomed to it from birth. But eating so much fine flour as we do in this arid climate is injurious to the health of the people—much more so, we are convinced, than the same bulk would be if eaten in a humid climate like that of Great Britain, or even the Eastern and Western States. Our children and our adults would all be much healthier if vegetables and fruits were more freely eaten. This is a subject of great importance and should receive attention.

FEMALE CULTURE AND TRAINING.

THERE is a very wide-spread interest being felt at the present time on the

subject of education. Parents are being aroused to its importance, and it is very pleasing to witness the efforts which they are making to place within the reach of their children those facilities which they require to prepare them for lives of usefulness. Too great care cannot be taken in educating our young ladies. Great responsibilities will devolve upon them. To their hands will be mainly committed the formation of the moral and intellectual character of the young. Let the women of our country be made intelligent, and their children will certainly be the same. The proper education of a man decides his welfare; but the interests of a whole family are secured by the correct education of a woman. It is a noticeable fact in the history of mankind that men who have attained to distinction among their fellow-men, have been the sons of wise, judicious mothers. Their mothers' influence has, in the most of instances, had more to do with the formation of their characters than their fathers'.

But to have a race of capable women, they must be healthy. A perfectly healthy woman, especially a perfectly healthy mother, is so unfrequent, among the wealthier classes east, that those who are so, are regarded as the exceptions, and not as the general rule. A perfectly healthy and vigorous woman can scarcely be found in the east, outside of the laboring classes. The women have fine mental training—their minds are cultivated; but the physical system is almost entirely neglected. We should be very sorry to see such a system of education pursued here. If the choice must be made between the mind and the body, and only one of these can receive the proper training, we would say, much as we would deplore the absence of mental cultivation, let it be the body. It would be better for posterity and the future of the world for the physical portion of woman's nature to receive the proper care, than for the mind to be developed at the expense of everything else.

The delicacy of constitution peculiar to American women is frequently remarked upon by medical men and intelligent, observant foreigners. Some have attributed this peculiarity to the climate; but American men are not feeble—women among the laboring classes are not affected like their sex who are wealthy, and it is a libel upon the country to charge it with consequences which are clearly traceable to bad habits. We have a very healthy climate in these mountains. Switzerland, Norway, Wales, nor any other country possesses advantages over us in this respect; but if our mothers, wives, sisters and daughters adopt the habits which prevail among their sisters elsewhere, if they become feeble and diseased, as they are, they should not blame the climate, but attribute these consequences to their cause.

Many of our females who now complain of a want of health and vigor could bring about a wonderful change in themselves and their feelings by changing their habits. Instead of remaining immured in their houses from one week's end to another, they should spend more time in the open air. They should exercise their bodies in out-door exercises and employments—walking, riding and gardening. The excuse now frequently made for not taking this course is the want of time. But if a certain amount of out-door employment and exercise were to be viewed as of primary importance and were to be strictly attended to, the in-door labors would suffer but little, if any, for the physical energy to perform them would be so much greater that they would be accomplished with pleasure. Regular exercise in the open air, should be required by mothers of their daughters as a part of their daily duty.

Another point of great importance in the education of young ladies in our community is to impart to them a thorough, practical knowledge of all kinds of domestic employments. Mothers who have an idea that labor is degrading and unbecoming, and do not give their daughters a thorough training in household employments, are not true friends to their children. If they could see all the anxieties, vexations and perplexities which their daughters would have to endure, after they become wives and mothers, in consequence of their lack of training, they would see their mistake. It may cost mothers more care to teach their daughters to be excellent cooks and thorough housewives; but the time and pains will be well spent, and in days to come their daughters will bless them for such training. Every woman, however wealthy, should understand everything connected with the care of a house and

a family to be able to teach her help whenever necessary. By such a training poverty itself is deprived of many of its inconveniences.

REMARKS

By President BRIGHAM YOUNG, in the New Tabernacle, afternoon, April 8, 1868.

REPORTED BY G. D. WATT.

President Heber C. Kimball has exhorted the bishops to gather around them the young men and teach them the privileges which they enjoy, and try to lead them in the right way. Bishops, I wish you to hearken to this piece of good advice. I will give each of the young men in Israel, who has arrived at an age to marry, a mission to go straightway and get married to a good sister, fence a city lot, lay out a garden and orchard and make a home, and especially do not forget to plant a proper proportion of mulberry trees. This is the mission that I give to all the young men in Israel. And I say to you, sisters, if you do not know how to milk a cow, you can soon learn. If you do not know how to feed the pigs, you can learn. If you do not know how to feed the chickens, get them and learn how, and if your husband takes you to live in ever so small and humble a cottage, make it neat and nice and clean, and set out flowers around the doors, and let the husband plant fruit trees and shade trees, and let wives help their husbands that they may be encouraged to take hold of more important business that will create an income sufficient to sustain their wives, and by economy and care become wealthy in a short time, and have your carriage to ride in. What a satisfaction it will be to you to know that what you possess is the result of your industry and economy. "It was not given to us by grandfather, or by father, or by mother, or any relation; but we have got these comforts by our industry, saving and the blessings of the Lord." By this means our young men and maidens will gain for themselves credit, respect, and a name in Israel worthy of the admiration of all good persons. How much better is this course than the opposite, to spend precious time to no profit, always being in a state of dependence. Were the Lord to speak of such conduct, he would use terms to show that He is not well pleased with it.

I have a short sermon for my sisters. I wish you, under the direction of your bishops and wise men, to establish your relief societies, and organize yourselves under the direction of the brethren, and establish yourselves for doing business, gathering up your little amounts of means that would otherwise go to waste, and put them to usury, and make more of them, and thus keep gathering in. Let this be commenced forthwith. Ask your husbands to furnish you some straw for hats and bonnets, and when you get it put more than three straws over your head, and make a hat that will shade you from the scorching sun. I have a great desire to live and see the prosperity of this people, and one thing among the rest, I would like to see the time when our sisters will take more pains to beautify their children. When your children arise in the morn'g instead of sending them out of doors to wash in cold, hard water, with a little soft soap, and wiping them as though you would tear the skin off them, creating roughness and darkness of skin, take a piece of soft flannel, and wipe the faces of your children smooth and nice, dry them with a soft cloth; and instead of giving them pork for their breakfast, give them good wholesome bread and sweet milk, baked potatoes, and also buttermilk if they like it, and a little fruit, and I would have no objections to their eating a little rice. Rice is an excellent food for children, and I wish some of the brethren would cultivate it in these valleys. Upland rice will flourish in this country. Train up your children to be beautiful and fair, instead of neglecting them until they are sunburned and become like the natives of our mountains. Let the sisters take care of themselves, and make themselves beautiful, and if any of you are so superstitious and ignorant as to say that this is pride, I can say that you are not informed as to the and pride which is in before the Lord, you are also ignorant as to the excellency of the heavens, and of the beauty which dwells in the society of the Gods. Were you to see an angel, you would see a beautiful and lovely creature. Make yourselves like angels in goodness and beauty. Let the mothers in Israel make their sons and daughters