

A Summer Religion, by George Fox¹

Friends

There is a summer religion that is up and flourisheth while the sun shineth, and while they have the Clubb and Staffe, and bag but when the winter and the storme and tempest cometh, they fly under the hils and mountains, and trees, to cover and shelter themselves (but this is not the nature of the sheep of Christ) in their bestial religion ; whose flight is in the winter, whom the powers doth seperate from their religion, worship and church as they call it, and their doctrine : But the nature of the sheep is not so, but the sheep wil get atop of the highest hil, and mountain, and set their backs and tails against the storme and tempests, and bleat for one another ; and when the dogs are abroad amongst the sheep, they wil run altogether, but they that are not the sheep wil scatter and be scattered when anything feareth them : But part the sheep asunder, and they wil run al on heaps again, and wil keep together, and neither storme, tempest, nor winter, nor powers, nor principallities can seperate them from the love of God, which they have in Christ Jesus their shepheard : and so Christs sheep beareth fruite in the winter stormes, and Tempests, and hath neither bag, staffe nor Club, but is in the vine bearing fruite, sitting atop on the highest hil and mountain, with their backs against the weather.

G. ff.

Copied from a manuscript volume in the hand-writing of Thomas Thompson (1631-1704), of Skipsea, Yorkshire.

Samuel Willets, with his brother Robert R., established a hardware business in New York in 1815. Samuel's shrewdness in business was noted. Once an irate customer called Robert "the meanest man he ever saw." Robert turned the other cheek by remarking: "Thee doesn't know my brother Samuel."

(Bulletin of Friends' Historical Association, 1931, 29n.)

¹ This is interesting in view of the writer's early life as a shepherd.