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# NORTH AMERICAN

# BEE JOURNAL

## THE BEE KEEPER'S GUIDE.

VOLUME I.

OCTOBER 1, 1872.

NUMBER 3.

### Correspondence.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

#### Honey Harvest in North Mississippi.

*Mr. Editor:*—The September number of the JOURNAL is now before me, and I am much pleased with it, but I see you did not exactly understand the question I asked in my first article.

Why will the egg that has been laid in the worker comb hatch a drone or queen bee? I put some comb in a small hive designed to raise Queens, (probably I might call it a Queen nursery.) The comb was all worker comb. In a few days I had one Queen, and I was dividing some other hives, and I took her from it and put her in one of the hives. In about sixteen or eighteen days they had two other Queen cells capped, (I had inserted a small piece of worker comb from another hive when I took out the first Queen.) One of these Queens hatched out and the other was cut out. It was now getting late in the season for swarming, and all the

honey harvest was apparently cut off, and but few drones could be seen in any of my hives.

Then is when I noticed that they were lengthening out some of the worker cells, and when they hatched, or uncapped themselves, they were drones; not the broad-backed drone we see come from the drone comb, but a slender made drone. I let them remain, as there was no honey for them to gather, and I thought I would feed, but that was too much trouble. I let them die off. Now what causes the drone, the feed or the egg?

I will now return to my subject. In my first article I gave you some few hints as to how the harvest for gathering honey was up to the first of August. From that time till now my bees have been gathering a little honey, and I may say now they are doing well. They are yet bringing in pollen and honey from what we call red shank.

I will enclose a small specimen; it is a wild weed growing in the hedges and fence corners of our county, and I am persuaded that it affords a great deal of honey.

I think by the time my strong col

onies stop work they will have from thirty to sixty pounds of honey each. I do not expect to take any more from them unless it be a frame to carry with me to the fair at Sardis, Panola county, Mississippi, (and if I had a few sample copies of the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL there I would take pleasure in distributing them among the bee men I meet at the fair, which commences on the 14th inst.) I expect to start from here on Monday, the 14th.

A few days since and I could see the honey dew falling, but we had a rain on Sunday, and the rains generally wash the dew from the leaves and flowers.

A few words as to wintering in this climate. I have always wintered on the summer stand, and have never lost but one stand from the cold, and that one was put near the leak of the house on the north side, and became wet from the water that fell from the eave of the house. It died in February, and had about thirty pounds of nice honey. I lost last winter nearly all of my late swarms—starved. I had one hive that swarmed three times, making, with the old one, eight. I do not remember how many came through the winter. They were in box hives with cap.

I took but little honey last year. I increased from five to twenty four swarms, and let one or two go off. They died down to thirteen. I bought five stands, and lost some more when I commenced to transfer.

Yours truly,

W. R. BAKER.

The question is, Why will the egg that has been laid in a worker comb hatch a drone or a Queen? There is but one solution that we shall attempt to give at this time. When we

speak upon this point we speak from experience.

*First.* The same kind of eggs that hatches the drone does not hatch Queens; the simple fact that both drone and worker eggs are found in the same comb is no evidence that it will; although it is contrary to their law, yet circumstances frequently alter cases. "Queens are not without deformities as well as many other creatures." We have had several Queens, whether from over taxation by laying a large amount of eggs, or otherwise, we can not say, but have had them that when they attempted to lay worker eggs in a worker comb, that the ovaries being weak and not having control of them, drone eggs were as liable to be dropped in worker comb as any, because the Queen could not control them, and many blame the poor Queen, and she has to die. I have kept such Queens with the wings clipped, and in a short time she would commence to lay regular every egg in its place. We frequently see several eggs in one cell. This is done by the same Queen, but not so bad. It is so, even with fertile workers; they often will lay several eggs in one cell. They are undeveloped females, and is not to be wondered at. If the organs were properly developed they would be regular in distributing their eggs, but they are not. A perfectly developed Queen don't do things at random; everything is done in order.

*Second.* "What causes the drone, the feed or the eggs?" We answer: The egg, as it is a male, and can not be made a female. The undeveloped female, such as a fertile worker, will lay eggs; those eggs produce a dwarfish drone. The unimpregnated Queen will lay eggs; those eggs produce drones also. The simple fact is, the law has not been complied with, in the

one case, with the Queen; the other is produced by a fertile worker; a worker bee that has been so far developed as to allow them to lay eggs. This is done in the absence of the Queen. Their strong propensity to perpetuate their race induces them to every effort to try and rear a mother. Efforts are frequently made by the bees to rear Queens from these eggs, but they are a failure every time.

The specimen of the blossoms sent, is something new to us. Should think, from the great amount of flowers on the stock, that it must be good. Should like some of the seed.—ED.

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Connoisseur No. 2.

*Mr. Editor:*—You remember we closed our last article by advising all bee keepers to extract all the thin honey, and feed coffee sugar syrup. When we opened our stocks to commence extracting what honey they had, how much honey do you think we found? "Every frame in each hive nearly filled up?" No. "Well, you surely got enough to pay for the sugar?" Not a bit of it; there were scarcely five pounds to the hive. This season was about the poorest for us we ever experienced. We only got one box, weighing six pounds, but, as we said before, we don't keep bees for profit, and are not going to be discouraged by the result of this season, and we have had only a little more fun at feeding.

We will have to join all our young stocks with the old ones, as they are so weak they will not be able to get through.

As the Buckeye Hive is very cold to winter in, we intend to make boxes just large enough to hold the frames. We think they will winter in them very well; at least a great deal bet-

ter than in the hive, for, unless it is a very strong stock they will not be able to get through.

We do not think it necessary to winter stocks in houses or with straw packed around them, unless very weak, but no bee keeper ought to have such; better break all the weak stocks up, and use the bees to strengthen others. If left outdoors, protected from the wind, they will not be troubled with mice, with which I have a great deal of trouble, and then they would be getting fresh air at all times. The first time we tried wintering in a house we lost all of them for our trouble, while those that remained on their summer stands came through strong and healthy.

Every one that does not wish his Queens to starve while shipping or introducing, ought to get some of Gray & Winder's cages. We kept delaying to get one, until one evening, while taking out the stopper to put in a piece of cotton saturated with honey, in order to feed the Queen, she crawled out and ran under our coat before we could catch her. There was a vexation. A very fine Queen, beautifully marked, gone up or down, we don't know which. Well, that decided us to get a cage that we could feed the Queen in without opening the apartment she is in,

Mr. McGaw says, in his article in the September number, page 43: "I have never seen one Queen destroy another." Well, in our opinion, he has not seen much. Let him put two Queens together, and he will find how quick they can do the business. To illustrate this we will give a little of our experience in that line. Last spring all of our nuclei joined in one swarm, and, while putting them back, carelessly got two Queens together,

and before we could separate them one was dead.

Again he says: "You may introduce a Queen into a hive containing a laying Queen. She will not disturb the new comer, but the workers will." All we have to say about this is, that we would not like to have him take care of our Queens.

We relate the following to show how much some people know about bees in this section. Sometime ago an acquaintance came to me and told me she wanted me to hive a swarm of bees. Well, of course we went, and when we got to the place we asked her to show us the bees:

"There, don't you see them?"

"No," and it occurred to us then that we had left our spectacles at home. We took another look, and sure enough, there they were under a piece of carpet laying across a wood-pile. We told her it was beyond our experience to hive those bees, and in the meanwhile we were edging away from the piece of carpet. If any one has anything to say about hiving bumble bees let him come out, for perhaps we will have to go into business in that line sometime.

CONNOISEUR.

P. S. Since we commenced this we have opened some of our hives and found the bees filling up the hives with honey very rapidly. We wondered then where they got it, but afterwards found that they were getting it from a white flower. The fields were full of them, and the bees worked on them until the frost killed them on the 11th of October. We think the bees have gathered enough to winter on.

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Our Bees.

A. J. Murray, Esq., Sir:—Yours of August 20 received; many thanks for the JOURNALS, &c., you sent me. You wished me to send you my experience for the past few years. My friend, I can not write you anything worthy of being published. I am perfectly willing to send you my ignorant mode of managing bees, but would blush to see it published. You have but little idea how ignorant we are down here of bees. As to the wonderful structure of the industrious little bee we know nothing; and very few care, so they are supplied with what honey they want. There are many bee keepers here you could not make believe that the Queen is the mother. That is, that she is the one that lays the eggs. They laugh at the idea. And as to drones, some say they are the common worker bee, but have stung something and pulled out their stingers. I wish the people here were more interested in the bee. A great many here kill off half of their bees every year. What they hived last year they will kill this year, and those they hive this year will stand until next year.

I have only eight hives now. I left my old home four years ago and moved on an unimproved place, and have not had the time to give to bees I had before the war. I had thirty hives when I went to the war in 1862, and I spent a great deal of time with them, more for love than profit. Last year we had a very late freeze, and our bees did not swarm scarcely at all, and made but very little honey. If I had not united some of my weak colonies I do not think I should have saved them. As it was, I only had

five left this spring to begin with. They cast nine swarms, but I only saved three of them. There are some large trees near my hives, and they invariably make for them. The usual time here for swarming is from the 1st of April to the 1st of June, but we have some swarms sooner and later. The earliest record I have of a swarm is the 20th day of March, 1869, and the latest is the 25th of December, 1871. *Can you beat that?* But they all left the gum, and when I examined there was not a drop of honey in it. They soon came back and settled at the mouth of another gum and soon went into that, wintered finely and cast two large swarms this spring. We never feed our bees. I have a plank fifteen inches wide and three inches thick for a floor to my gums, and on this they are placed two feet apart, and there they remain summer and winter. I have a long shed over them to protect from rain and sun. The gums I use now mostly are small, and I use a small box of light structure on the top as a second magazine for storing honey, and in this I have frames. I can take out a frame, and if it is not filled as I wish I can slip it back.

I do not think bees can make the honey here that they can where you are. As a general thing, I think thirty pounds is an average here, but sometimes we get as much as fifty pounds from a gum in a season. I do not think the people here will ever try to see how much can be made from a single hive. They take no interest at all in bee journals, and as a general thing their gums consist of barrels, boxes, and, in fact, any thing the bees will stay in.

I think it injurious moving gums; neither do I wish bees to remain longer than three years in the same gum.

The comb gets old and black, and I do not think they do so well. What profit do you think the Italian Queen would be to me, situated thus? There are twenty or thirty hives of the black bees within three miles of me; I send you some peeces paper. You can see by them my style and size of gum. Well, I suppose you are tired of me by this time, and I beg your pardon for intruding so long. My excuse, "Love for the industrious bee," and a topic I seldom tire of. Fraternally yours,

I. J. BEST.

*Mansfield, Desoto Parish, La.*

[The above letter was addressed to our friend Murray, of Memphis, Tennessee, of whom we received it and lay it before our readers. We will add that if every one will place their experience and the condition of bee culture in their vicinity as well as our friend, it will be but a short time before light will be carried to them. Let us have your experience; remember, the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL was designed to reach every crook and corner of this beautiful globe, carrying with it light and knowledge, without distinction to any. We have longed to see and reach our friends in the South, and are happy to see the interest they have manifested in sustaining the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL. It is the peoples JOURNAL. Write for the JOURNAL.—ED.]

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### A New Beginner.

*Mr. Editors:*—As you have requested your subscribers to write for the JOURNAL, giving their experience in bee keeping, I will try to give a little of mine. In the spring of 1870 my wife thought we must have a swarm of bees. Hearing of some for

sale eighteen miles off, I took my team and started after some. In two days time I had accomplished my trip and arrived home with two swarms of bees, in the old box hive, which cost me six dollars each. Last year got two swarms and about 100 pounds of honey; in the spring of 1871 had four swarms to commence with, and run up to eleven in all, by natural swarming; but not having hives that were calculated to benefit and give the best results, I put one in a nail keg. When I had obtained some more hives I transferred the one in the keg into a new hive; and not properly understanding the business, I made a failure of it, and lost that swarm by moth and other mishaps, but managed to get ten through the winter, and then lost three. When it was warm enough for them to fly, one had no honey and starved to death; lost one with dysentery, and one swarmed and went into another hive, queenless, no doubt; so it left me with but seven in the spring of 1872. From these six in the spring I have got ten natural swarms and one artificial swarm, and one after it had settled on the limb of a tree. They were rather disposed to take a tramp, and were soon on the wing, and made headway for the woods. Seeing them as they were passing the door, I, of course, was on my feet, and half a mile I seemed to keep nearly up with the emigrants, but as their mode of traveling somewhat surpassed mine, I soon began to fall in the rear, and away went my pets to parts unknown. This left me with seventeen swarms, in different kinds of hives. This season has not been a very good honey season, but I think better than that of last year. This is my first in the way of an article for the Press, and I feel somewhat diffident in making my appearance;

but should you think this worthy of a place in your much esteemed and valuable journal, it is at your pleasure to do with it as you deem best, wishing you success in your noble enterprise.

J. W. BENNETT.

*Terre Haute, Ind.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.

**Bee Keeping on the Prairies.**

*Mr. Editors:*—I am a bee keeper on the prairie, four to six miles from timber. I will give you some of my experience here, and if it is worthy of a place in your valuable journal please put it there. In 1869 my bees stored honey in their boxes from May 20 to October 5 without any stop of over two days at a time. I wintered in a bee house, but the winter being open, they were uneasy and wintered very badly.

In 1870 we had a dry season, and bees done but moderately, forage being very scarce. I now found out two important facts—First, the superiority of the Italians, they gathering much larger stores than the black bees; second, in the latter part of this season bees refuse to build comb, but would fill very rapidly the combs when emptied with the extractor. In 1871 we had a perfect drought, bees made no surplus, and the Italians again showed their superiority, being in better condition every way. This winter being very cold, my bees wintered in my bee-house with comfort. All came in good condition. 1872. we had another poor year on the prairie; the Italians again showed their superiority. My Italians were storing honey, while the black were almost starving. By investigating I found that they went due south and returned with a dark honey. I went to the nearest timber, four and a half miles, and found honey dew and lynn

in abundance, which satisfied me that they go farther than black bees do for stores.

My best hive this season gathered 180 pounds of honey, and not a colony of blacks on this prairie that I know of has made over 20 pounds.

I like your journal very much, and wish you success, and believe you will succeed, knowing that your long experience in bee culture gives you many advantages over many other publishers. Wishing you success,

I remain, respectfully,  
S. D. BARBER.

*Mattoon, Ill.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

### Jottings.

*Mr. Editor*:—Traveling over the country some the past season, I frequently met with bee keepers and engaged them in conversation as much as I could, that I might thereby learn something new in relation to bee culture. In Henderson county, Illinois, I met a man who inquired of me why two stocks, apparently strong alike and equal in every respect, one would far excel the other in gathering honey. I gave him my opinion. No, he said, I was wrong. I then asked him why one should out do the other; he replied, it was because the bees of the different hives went in different or opposite directions in search of nature's nectar. This was news to me, as I suppose it will be to most of your readers. In the noted town of "Young America" I met two or three who had been bee keepers, but in July of '71 a "bee man" passed through the town, and for two dollars per hive "drove," or swarmed, their stocks for them; they don't keep bees now, and it is hardly safe to say bees to them. I advised them to subscribe to some good Bee Journal, and they

would soon learn how to hive or swarm their bees, and to do it at the right time. In Warren county I met a man who gave his plan of getting rid of the moth. It is very simple and easily tried. It is this: Simply let the moth have one hive, and they would not disturb the others." This, also, was news to me. Perhaps there are others who have tried this plan and can give their experience.

In Green county I met a man exhibiting his hive, which had a moth-trap in the bottom. He had several bee keepers around him. The moth-trap, with them, was just *the thing*; the movable frames did not seem to interest them. I asked one of the spectators if he had taken much surplus honey; he replied, no—he had got none for several years, the moth were so bad, he undertook to brimstone a stock, but the moth had taken it. I asked if it had swarmed, and he replied yes. I told him the young queen had, in all probability, been lost on her "bridal trip," and if he used a frame hive he could always tell when this was the case, and remedy it. I advised him to buy a hive with the moth-trap, knowing the trap would please him, but told him, once he got interested in his bees, and gave them proper attention, he would have no more fear of the moth's destroying his bees than he would of the cows or horses doing it. I find all over the country, among the educated bee keepers, the great cry is the moth. If they could only get rid of the moth they would swim in honey.

In Jersey county I visited a bee keeper, in one of the very best localities for honey. I asked him how much surplus honey he got last season from about 100 stocks? He replied, not a pound. By killing late swarms and taking off the tops of hives and



cutting out honey, he obtained 600 pounds. His stocks were in barrels, gums and boxes of all shapes; some about 8x10, and 30 inches high. I advised him to make some cases, set these hives in them, and put on side boxes, and I thought he would get some box honey. He is under the bluffs and one mile from the Illinois River, surrounded by white clover, bass-wood and golden weed on the river bottom, and yet getting no honey. I requested him to adopt the movable comb system, and I thought he would certainly get several thousand pounds of honey. His wife replied that she thought there *must* be a better plan than the way they were doing. Most of his hives set on a flat rock, they had wintered well, and not a sign of dysentery. I related Hosmer's offer, also, Gallup's big yield, Grimm and others. I did not suppose he would believe me, but he said he had confidence in what I said.

Yours, etc ,

TRAVELER.

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Our Bees.

*Mr. Editor:*—The bee book and JOURNAL came to hand all right, and I am highly pleased with them. They are just what the bee keepers want, as they are of great value to them, and more especially coming from a man of long and tried experience, as well as from a man not advocating and running and blowing for a bee hive. Your interest is for the JOURNAL, just as it should be. Let those having hives to sell advertise them and pay for it. Your experience and manner must evidently win to the JOURNAL a large circulation.

I am but a novice in bee keeping, In the year 1870 I bought four stands of bees in box hives, let them swarm

naturally, transferred one to a new hive, and then divided the young swarms until I had twelve swarms all told. I thought I was doing well, but alas! I lost more than any one else by it. I put all weak swarms in my cellar, but having to go to it two or three times each day for vegetables, disturbed them too much. They all had the dysentery more or less, and all run short of food before spring. I fed them about one month and lost four of the eight stocks, which was rather discouraging. I got but little surplus honey this spring. I bought eleven swarms in box hives, and lost one in moving. I transferred all to the Western Queen Hive. Had two natural swarms only, and sold them, and now have twenty-six. My increase was light as well as the honey. Had I applied the honey extractor in time I should have taken from 800 to 1,000 pounds of honey more than I will get. I have taken 275 pounds from 12 stocks, and from 75 to 100 pounds in box honey. I think I will extract 3 or 4 pounds from the unsealed honey, then they will have from 30 to 40 pounds to winter on. I shall winter all strong swarms out of doors.

I send you a specimen of a honey plant. No one has any name for it. It grows from four to six feet high; stalk round and hard, with short fuzzy, white hair. I think it a great honey plant, as all kinds of bees, butterflies and smaller insects work on it; would like the true name.

Rushville, Mo. G. STAGGS.

The flower resembles the blossom of the Canada thistle, while the leaf is long and tapering; will try and find names for all such soon, and then report them. The flower is heavy seeded. Send what you can of it.—  
ED.

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Information Wanted.

*Mr Editor*:—Your invitation to any one to write for the JOURNAL is truly inviting, and I avail myself of the opportunity, and wish to ask a few questions to be answered:

*First*. I divided my bees and filled up the empty spaces in the bottom hives with empty frames, and in so doing the bees lengthed out the cells of the full frames, so that the empty ones adjoining were left vacant, and the others were too thick. How can it be remedied in nucleus or artificial swarming?

*Second*. I divided a colony of black bees a short time ago, and shortly after introduced an Italian card of comb to raise a few cells. I cut out all the cells but one, which was a poor looking one, and in a few days I gave them some more young brood, at the same time looking for the Queen, which I did not find, and closed the hive. I have looked several times since, with the same results. I introduced three cards with plenty of young larvæ, and they did not construct a cell, and furthermore, there has not been an egg laid in the hive since it was divided; the cards were introduced at different times, and the last one three weeks after it was divided.

I have been particular in giving you the details, so you could be able to judge correctly.

GILBERT BACON.

*Bucyrus, Ohio.*

The combs should not be separated unless there is plenty of bees; also plenty of honey for them to gather. Should you separate them, cut a piece of cotton cloth large enough to hang down over the frame containing the comb; cut a few holes

through the cloth to admit both bees and heat; this let remain one week and all will be right.

*Second*. Had you fed your bees at the time of introducing the brood and eggs, they might possibly have raised a Queen. The supposition is that your bees had a barren Queen. I have known of several instances where eggs and brood were given repeatedly, and no Queen was raised, and have found a queen in the hive that was owned and accepted by the bees, yet if she never laid any eggs the hive would soon become depopulated. These barren queens are small and dwarfish, and hard to be detected. The bees seem to own them, and do not destroy them as they do with queens in old age. From the description given we should judge this was the cause.

This letter was received for our first number, but was accidentally laid aside. We will try and be more careful hereafter, as we intend to give each his turn.—ED.

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### A Talk with Brother Bee Keepers.

*Mr. Editor*:—I, for the first time, bring my name in this BEE JOURNAL, which has recently blessed this people—a journal which has long been looked for. Now to my subject. We hear many complaints of bees being very cross and almost unmanageable. We have none of this with our bees. By using either cotton rags or rotten wood smoke, you can subdue the largest and most irritable colony in one minute's time. Many use tobacco smoke, but we find that it leaves the bees crosser, as there is a bad and sickening smell, which is not so easily removed, and the bees seem to be more irritable afterwards. When we examine hives containing little

honey we often sprinkle them with honey or sweetened water; they are so fond of it that they are as peaceable as kittens. We suspect that the mixed black and Italian bees is one of the principle reasons of this difficulty. By introducing a card of black brood into a stock of Italians you are most apt to have a cross set of bees. In my opinion, if we must have hybrids, we would always prefer them from the other side of the house. By careful breeding we may preserve the best and most desirable qualities of our bees with as much certainty as any other domestic animal. We all remember the heavy loss which most of bee keepers met with last winter and spring. Now I think it is time for us to make preparations against this. My plan is to see that all stocks have plenty of stores, and have all our hives well stocked with bees that is not too old, and a sufficient amount of brood. If you don't want to double your weak stocks I would advise to add frames of comb and feed as fast as possible, and more especially where apples are plenty. Next place, see that you have a card in the center of your hive which is clean and empty of honey and bee bread.

In this part of the country we have had a good season for gathering honey. Bees have done extremely well (for honey.) If the people would cultivate more honey producing plants, we should get larger yields of honey; but as the bee question is now being agitated, light is fast dawning upon us. I am happy to see so many of our Southern friends giving us the light they are; and I don't wonder, friend Moon, you have embraced the whole of North America, and with it the people feel at home to speak. Then we say, friends, come, come from

every nation, come from every clime, and let us have your experience Success to the JOURNAL; long may it carry light to the people.

*Leo, Ind.*

J. B. MAGER.

[For the North American Bee Journal.  
Notes from Wayne Co., Ohio.

*Mr. Editor*:—I received the books you sent me, and after a correct perusal I feel happy to say, that in behalf of all my readers that every bee keeper should subscribe for the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and obtain a book free. This book contains great practical information for the novice as well as the more advanced bee keeper. The JOURNAL and book should be in the hands of every intelligent man or woman who are engaged in the happy pursuits of bee culture.

In glancing over the past season I must say that it has not been as favorable for bees in this county as in some former seasons, owing, of course, to the backward spring, and the depressed condition of our bees when brought from their winter quarters, which was almost discouraging for awhile. I might have given it up in despair, but as onward is our motto, I kept up appearance and trusted in the future, believing that we may ever remember to a benefit of us all.

June is our great honey month. During this month white clover blooms profusely, but it failed to secrete but little honey until the fifteenth, and but limited quantities thereafter, making the yield of honey quite short from white clover, consequently swarming was very much retarded among our neighbors, who generally have their bees swarm naturally.

During the month of July we had a drawback on the honey yield; dur-

ing the last three weeks bees lost from two to six pounds of honey per stock, which you know was not very "healthy for us;" but as I make it a rule to stimulate them by feeding during such expected time, I keep them strong in numbers, and when buckwheat and other forage came in bloom, (August 10) they were able to "go for the honey;" so they did, too, and filled up their hives beyond our expectations. I think I never knew buckwheat to secrete more honey than it did this fall, and honey of such good quality.

I had thought of extracting the honey from a number of stocks and feeding sugar syrup as a substitute. So I went to work, on September 26, with the intention of emptying some combs, but I found the honey to be of such a good quality that I carried my extractor back to the old place, thinking it prudent to leave the honey where it was, being satisfied that the honey is of much better quality than last year.

I shall winter my bees on their summer stands the coming winter, well protected. At some future time I will report my success.

Wishing success to the new JOURNAL, I remain as ever,

E. J. WORST.

*New Pittsburg, Wayne Co., O.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Comb Guides.

*Mr. Editor:*—Almost every bee keeper that has used improved hives, having movable frames or sections, must have experienced the necessity for something to cause the bees to build their combs straight; for if they are built crooked they can not be handled near so easily. Often when there is no guide the bees will commence building comb from the adjoin-

ing corners of two frames, and continuing downward, will join the pieces thus commenced, making one single piece of them, attached to both frames.

The first allusion I have been able to find to a comb guide is, in works of the past on bee culture, I find in one of the four volumes of John Hunter's works, entitled "Observations on Certain Parts of the Animal Economy, inclusive of Several Papers from the Philosophical Transactions, etc., with Notes by Richard Owens, F. R. S.," published by Haswell, Barrington & Haswell, Philadelphia, 1840. In the above mentioned volume, at page 415, commences a paper read by that most illustrious physician, before the Royal Society, entitled "Observations on Bees." On page 417 he says: "As one perpendicular comb, the whole length and height of the hive, in the center, dividing it into two, is the best position for exposing their operations, it is necessary to give them a lead or direction to form it so; therefore it is proper to make a ridge along the top from end to end, in the center, between the two sides, for they like to begin their comb from an eminence; if we wish to have them transverse or oblique, it would only be necessary to make transverse or oblique ridges in the hive." Here then we have abundant evidence that the "beveled edge," that is used so much by bee keepers as a guide, has been in use and so published since 1792. How many of us have been threatened with a suit in a United States Court unless we paid a certain claimant of a patent on it for the use of the device?

Having always been obstinate, the party spoken of has my permission to bring suit at his earliest convenience. But it might be more profitable for

him to turn his thoughts Heavenward. This summer I have been using Dadont's "comb guide press," which makes a very thin piece of wax to hang down from the center of the frame or section for a guide. The guide may be made as deep or as shallow as you wish. I have found it very practicable as a guide, the bees always building to it, and it is very easily and quickly applied, being neater, cheaper, and less in the way than wooden guides.

W. A. BYRD.

*Ursa, Adams county, Ill.*

For the North American Bee Journal.

### Bee Keeping.

*Mr. Editor:*—Mr. Hereford tells us that many theories in bee keeping have been advanced "that were plausible and pretty enough to read, but did not hold good in practice," and hence, to prove the correctness of these theories, "lost over one year's time." This is a misfortune that all new beginners in bee keeping have to encounter, if they are not so fortunate as to get the right theory at first.

"A plain, common sense theory," in the main, is to be commended. Why should not the "Beautiful South" be a favored land for "milk and honey," one where bee keeping may flourish in lavish yields of honey, since the flowers bloom there three-fourths of the year?

That some localities are better adapted than others for bee keeping can not be denied, on account of the natural profusion of flowers and the atmospheric changes, but at the same time many of the barren localities may be rendered better by a well ordered cultivation of appropriate bee pasturage.

And the South may, in nine tenths

or her localities, be susceptible of the greatest improvements, by intelligent energy and made to do well. And what Mr. Hereford has done other Southern bee keepers may do, in bee keeping, in other favorable localities. "I take," he says, "every bee journal and book that can give me any information, and read every article as closely as if I was just starting with bees."

This is just what all bee keepers should do. They should take the bee journals and books, and read every article carefully, and learn all that is beneficial and useful for the better management of bees.

Friend Hazen steps forward just at this point, and says, "Every field is limited in the amount of honey secreting flowers. The product of honey, as well as of forage or bread, has a limit at some point in all seasons." This is true, and yet, as above stated, it can be improved by cultivation. "Different fields vary in amount of capacity of production, from the greatest amount furnished in one field down to nothing in the barren waste."

This, likewise, is true, but again, I repeat it can be rendered better by a judicious cultivation of appropriate bee plants. Who will try it? Certainly every section that is not entirely barren can be improved by the fertilization of the soil, and will yield a greater amount of honey if certain atmospheric influences do not prevent. That these atmospheric influences do often cut the secretion of honey short, is not to be denied, and has been shown true to many bee keepers in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other States, during the last three years.

Mr. Trolinger is now upon the stage reciting his experience in bee

keeping. His experience seems to be all in the right direction. It is improvement in everything pertaining to bee culture.

Mr. Bartlett next entertains us by recital of his experience with the black, and then with the Italian bees. Read his article. White clover was unproductive in honey with him this year as well as with us.

Friend Hedding informs us of the mortality of bees in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, last winter—says they died for want of stores and from not being sheltered from the severe storms. Well, Mr. Hedding should feed them plenty of stores, and protect them from the severe storms. He then recites the success of the bees gathering Linden honey on the 6th of July.

My friend, H. A. Burch, has always something good to say. He gives us some valuable thoughts upon ventilation of bees in the winter season. They are valuable to all who would successfully winter their bees. Mature his suggestions.

Mr. Baker does not give so pleasing a picture of bee keeping from the "Sunny South" as Mr. Hereford, only for the month of May. He does not tell us why this is the case. But we suppose it was from unfavorable atmospheric influences. The editor answers his questions.

Mr. Fellows gives an article on bee keeping. It is worth a careful perusal and a place in our memory, and especially a place in the **NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.**

Friend McGaw now puts in a question to friend Hester to know how he learned that the queens destroy the royal cells, and shows that Mr. Hester has learned more than he had about the queen's doings with the queen cells or her sister queens.

Who knows but our friend McGaw has chosen the better experience about the destruction of queens and royal cells in normal colonies?

Mr. Byrd presents us with a fancy bee dress. I think it will be a good and safe one for those who wish to take a fine sweat, about the head, on a hot day.

Bee keeping, as I have elsewhere said, can be made to pay if we can have a continuous yield of honey in the flowers. We may plant all kinds of honey yielding flower seeds, but if the soil and weather are unpropitious the yield of honey will be small, and, per consequence, bees will not do well. Nay, more, they will be a loss instead of a profit. It will be seen, then, that we gain by the judicious cultivation of the soil and all the varied bee pasturage found in the plants of the field and trees of the forest, in their seasons of growth and maturity.

It will be seen, too, that a hot and dry atmosphere has a greater impression upon some plants than upon others in suppressing, cutting off, or otherwise destroying the secretion of honey, or evaporating it too quickly after secreted. As before stated, we shall gain by cultivating deep rooted plants, in the right kind of soil, since they can better endure the drouth and give more honey. In some years the white clover will bloom all the season on a low and damp piece of land, and yield honey while it would fail on dry land during the same season. The same may be true of most other plants and trees, yet some plants that send their roots deep into the earth may prove an exception to this rule.

Much injury is done to bee keeping by many writers in their articles on bee culture. This is especially

the case when they all the time give the good side of the picture and never give an unfavorable side. There are some things we can control, but there are others we can not, as for example, we can improve the soil and raise all kinds of bee plants, but we can not control the seasons, and this makes the secretions of honey all that we could desire. Here is one great source of failure. We neither prepare the soil nor cultivate the plants and trees that supply a bountiful crop of honey, either in favorable or unfavorable seasons. And next, we do not see that our colonies are strong in bees when the honey season comes to gather it from the flowers. It evaporates, and is "wasted on the desert air." JEWELL DAVIS.

*Charleston, Ill.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Good Time Coming.

*Mr. Editor:*—I believe that Mr. Herford, of Louisiana, wrote his article just to tantalize us little bee keepers, and make us want to haul in our horns and keep still after reading it, but he can't come it over me, for I will bark if I don't have anything to bark about.

"Six thousand pounds of honey," and "six hundred and thirty-seven dollars worth of bees and hives."

Phew! don't that make your mouth water, brother bee keepers? And ten dollars will buy all my surplus honey this season. How is that for a contrast?

Now, Mr. Herford, you have "spelt," just step up to the head and let the rest of us have a "spell."

You know you will get the head mark, anyhow. But we would like to hear you "spell" again and often, as it is very interesting, to me at least. I think with Mr. Hazen, a lo-

cality can be overstocked, though it hasn't been done here as yet.

I can sympathize with E. Bartlett in his bad luck, for his experience of the first three years is almost an exact counterpart of mine; but don't get discouraged, but keep "digging," and we will get our pay "after a bit."

Hurrah for the voice from Alabama! for if the voice is as good as the writing it must be pretty good.

Now, Miss Emma, I think it is too bad that that Kentucky "feller" is going to have all the chances of making that bargain, can't you extend the territory a little, so as to give the rest of us young chaps a chance, too? At any rate, you must certainly send around them wedding cards. I wish you much joy, and a long, happy and sweet life.

I hope you will be as successful in future bee-keeping as you have been heretofore, and let us hear from you again.

Many thanks for the book entitled "The Apiary." I think it is one of the best books I have ever read, and I have read a good many, and should be in the hands of every new beginner in bee-keeping, and also those of the older ones, for it is a valuable work for any one to have who is engaged in our favorite pursuit.

Success and long life to the new journal. Yours, truly,

W. M. KELLOGG.

*Oneida, Ill.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Does Bee-Keeping Pay?

You will find this question answered in the September number of the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, wherein it is stated that "our bees present us a yearly revenue of \$8,800,000, or a pound of pure honey to-

every man, woman and child in the United States." "The profits from the sale of surplus honey average from fifty to two hundred per cent. of the capital invested." Now, farmers are generally well satisfied when they obtain ten per cent. on their capital, and often get much less for their labor. It is true that in certain localities bees have not done as well for the last two years as formerly, while in other parts of the country we have reports of handsome profits, and thus the general profits are kept up, which is on the profitable side of the question. If we have a poor crop of any staple product for one or two seasons, must we let it alone for all time to come; or if a certain kind of live stock does not yield the usual increase or profit, do judicious farmers say let it alone in the future? No, but they attribute the small profits to the kind of season, their own neglect or some exceptional causes, keeping their capital invested until their profits are good and they are well repaid. A great many who keep bees devote their time to all else first, and to the bees none at all, and then complain, seeming to think that bees require no care whatever. It is not necessary to neglect other business to attend to an ordinary stock of bees, if properly managed. Many bee keepers think they are obliged to move their bees from their summer stands to special winter quarters, and *vice versa*. I also notice great complaint from losing bees and honey by sweating and freezing in the winter; hence the demand for "upward ventilation." Much of this trouble can be obviated. Experience teaches that it is not best to crowd bees in a small hive, and we find it is not their choice when in a natural state. I am now using a hive which possesses advantages over

any I have ever used. The sides and top of the upper chamber are made of double thickness inch boards, with a non-conducting material between them, thus preserving an even temperature, so that in the hot weather of summer the bees are not inclined to lay out without working, and in winter I leave them on their summer stand, and keep them over until the next season with less honey. The ventilators can be opened or closed as desired. The cards are of such form that honey or brood can be handled with safety. I do not wish to occupy space with a complete description of the hive, but as it has never been fairly before the public, I wish to state to those interested that it has given satisfaction wherever it has been tried, and I can recommend it to the bee keeping fraternity. I have no further interest in this hive than for my own use and the welfare of bee-keepers generally. I can only refer you to the inventor and proprietor, Mr. J. M. Patton, of Tipton, Iowa.

While reading your journal I notice many facts of use and interest to those engaged in our enterprise, and have been induced thereby to cast in my mite, hoping it may be the means of inducing some of our readers to consider whether they are pursuing the most profitable course or not.

PETER JACOBS.

Tipton, Iowa.

### The Pasturage of Bees.

In his excellent little "Handy Book of Bees," published by Messrs. Blackwood & Sons, Edinburg, Mr. Pettigrew, whose book we reviewed at the time it came out, makes the following remarks:

Crocuses in early spring receive great attention from bees. Much



pollen and some honey are collected from their flowers.

In some places there are two kinds of willow (*salix*) which bear yellow flowers, beautifully conspicuous, in early spring, which are much visited by bees.

The border hyacinths of our gardens—the same sort as are forced to decorate and scent our conservatories—furnish bees with many a sweet mouthful.

Single wallflowers—grown largely in some localities for cut flowers and seed—are excellent for bees.

The flowers of gooseberry and plum trees are super-excellent, yielding honey of the finest quality in great abundance.

Apple, pear, and currant trees are also of great value to bees, furnishing the bees with a rich and large amount of honey. Cherry, peach and apricot are honey-yielding plants.

Field-mustard (*sinapis arvensis*), which is a weed, superabounding in some districts, frequently covering our corn-fields with its yellow flowers. In Derbyshire this plant is called ketlock, in Lanarkshire it is called termed ranches. Here in Lancashire and Cheshire, it is called the yellow flower. It continues a long time in flower, and the honey gathered from it is very clear and excellent. The flowers of turnips, and all the brassica tribe, are exceeding tempting to bees, and yield them large supplies.

Field-bees are about as rich in honey as they can be—rich in quantity and rich in quality. There is some mystery as to the means employed to extract it from the flowers of beans, which are tubular in shape, and of considerable thickness. The honey, of course, lies at the bottom of these flowers—deeper than the length of a bee's proboscis. The

tubes are pierced or tapped near their bottoms, and through the holes thus made the bees extract much rich pasture. It has been said that bees are unable to pierce the tubes of the flowers, and that the holes are made by bumble-bees, which have greater powers. No one can watch bumble or earth bees at work in a field of beans, and remain in doubt that they do some work in this way. They do push their trunks through the petals of the flowers with a view to reach the honey; but the question is, can bees make holes for themselves, or do they merely make use of the holes of the bumble-bees? We have never seen a honey-bee make a hole through the petal of a bean-flower; but from the scarcity of bumble-bees in some neighborhoods where bean-flowers are found well pierced, we are ready to believe that the "jemies" of our own friends are used for breaking through the thick walls of the bean-flowers.

Maple, sycamore (or plane), and lime trees are of great value to the bee-farmer. Maples are as abundant in this country as sycamore and limes. Honey is not distilled from the flowers of the sycamore, but it literally lies on them, and is clammy and sticky to the touch of human hands. Elsewhere we have said that the honey gathered from the flowers of sycamore and gooseberry trees is of a sea-green color, rich and highly flavored.

The strong and rather pleasant scent of lime-trees in flower, and the music of bees busy at work on them, indicate that honey in abundance is collected from them in the month of July.

Wimberry, raspberry, and brambleberry deserve honorable mention as honey producing plants. Wimberry bushes—acres and scores of

acres of them—abound in moorland districts. They flower early, and are rich in honey; but as few bees are permanently kept in such neighborhoods, more honey produced by them is lost.

Borage, mignonette, heliotrope, buckwheat, and bird's-foot trefoil (*lotus corniculatus*), gorse, and broom are useful in their day.

White or Dutch clover is *the queen* of honey plants. It is widely cultivated in this country, and continues to flower a long time. In Scotland, the farmers use more white clover seed in laying down the land in grass than the farmers of England, hence the clover-fields are better there than here. And the use of lime and bone-dust as manures has a great influence in the protection of clover. In traveling to Edinburgh some years ago by the Caledonian line, whole fields white with clover-flowers caught my eye, and made me take a second look to see if the whiteness came from daisy-flowers. Whole districts, unsurpassed for excellence, met me during a visit to my native land, many of which hardly ever received a complimentary visit from bees, and for this reason, that there were no bee-keepers in these districts.

I verily believe there is more wealth (in honey) in the clover and heath fields of Scotland than there is in the gold-fields of Sutherland—if not of California; but few people know it, otherwise bees would be kept to collect it.

Pastures eaten bare by cattle are, of course, not so good for honey as those less severely eaten. And apart altogether from the bee-keeper's view of the matter, the wisdom of the farmer in putting too many cattle into his fields is not very evident. Bare pastures keep cattle on the

trudge, wasting their substance in seeking food which, when easily obtained where grass is abundant, goes to form either milk or flesh.

Sheep are fonder of clover than cattle, and more able to nibble off its young heads; hence sheep-pasture is inferior to a honey point of view to cow-pasture. "A land of milk and honey."

Clover is more uncertain in its yield of honey than most other plants, inasmuch as it is more easily affected by cold nights than they. Three-years ago, a stock-hive from which one swarm only was obtained was weighed every morning during the hot weather of July. On the 17th and 18th it gained 12 lbs, in weight, next two days only 4 lbs, and on the following day it gained 4 lbs. The difference of honey gathered was attributed to the variation of night temperature, for the one day was as hot as the other.

Heather-blossoms, during the months of August and September, yield a harvest of honey prodigiously and marvelously large. This is so well-known, that in Scotland, and some parts of the Continent, there may be seen cart-loads of bee-hives going to ground. Bee-keepers find that there is an ample return for the trouble and expense of taking bees to the moors, even though the distance be 30 or 40 miles. On no spot of Scotland can it be said that heather is not within easy distance of it, so that all Scottish bee-keepers can avail themselves of the honey that is so abundantly produced by its pinky-purple bloom. To me it appears wonderful that we have in England heather enough for all the bees in the world. In Yorkshire there are magnificent seas of it. On the hills of Derbyshire, within 20

miles of Manchester, we find miles of heather that can not well be surpassed for excellence. In the south, we find heather in Devon, Sussex, and Hampshire I have seen it, too, in Warwickshire; but of the quality I can not speak from personal knowledge. Ireland, Wales, and the most northern counties of England, it is as abounding and "come-at-able" as it is in Scotland. Heather-honey is so different in taste and appearance from other honey, that it is called in Scotland "heather-honey," all the rest being termed "flower-honey."

It need not be said that plants grown on warm well drained lands yield more honey than those grown on cold heavy soils. Even in the case of heather this is true. In ordinary seasons, heathery hills yield more honey than heathery swamps. And the good sense of every bee-keeper will tell him that hilly exposed pastures and districts are, in showery seasons, much better for honey than flat and sheltered ones. We have known hives placed in hilly districts increase greatly in weight in such seasons; whereas those standing in low sheltered places could scarcely keep themselves, the flowers being hardly ever dry. In very droughty seasons the low sheltered parts may be the better of the two for honey-gathering.—*Farmers Home Journal.*

### Kansas State Bee-Keepers' Association.

#### IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS.

The annual meeting of the Bee-Keepers' Association of the State of Kansas was held in the court room of the city of Topeka, September 19th, during the State Fair, the president, Dr. L. J. Dallas, in the chair. The

secretary being absent, on motion of N. Cameron, Esq., G. F. Merriam was elected secretary *pro. tem.*

A motion opposing the extension of the patent for the Langstroth beehive was passed unanimously by a standing vote.

The secretary was instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to each member of our delegation in Congress, so that in case the bill is put on its passage our Congressmen may have some authoritative facts to govern their action.

On motion of J. G. Otis, a resolution was passed recommending that the State Association at its next meeting change the time of holding its regular meeting for the election of officers to the time and place of holding the State Fair.

On motion of Mr. Lovejoy, N. Cameron, Esq., was invited to prepare and deliver an address at the next State Fair meeting.

On motion of N. Cameron, a committee of three was appointed to confer with the State Board of Agriculture in relation to a revision of the premium list space and facilities for showing honey, hives, etc. Messrs. N. Cameron, L. J. Dallas and G. F. Merriam were appointed as a committee for the above purpose.

Reports for the year were then made by different members of the Association, and all agreed that the past season has been a very poor one—bees making little or no surplus, and barely able to live up to August 1st, since which time they have done very well.

A series of questions were then discussed, the first of which was the best method of fastening queen cells in the combs.

Dr. Dallas favored using the entire frame, or if more than one cell were in a frame, and it was desirable to

save all of them, to detach them with as much comb as possible.

Mr. Cameron said his way was to take off the cells with very little comb, open his hive and put a cell down in one of the spaces between the frames; that he did not move a frame for this purpose, and could easily tell if they were destroyed or when they hatched, as it was not necessary to take out a frame and irritate his bees.

Mr. Merriam had used large pins to hold the cells in place until fastened.

The next question was: At what period after a colony has been deprived of its queen is the safest to introduce a cell?

The general answer seemed to favor waiting until cells were started by the bees themselves.

Mr. Merriam said he used queen cages for his cells, and finds them to operate admirably.

A young queen can be released from a cage with the same safety as a fertile one.

The third question was in regard to forage. Alsike clover was considered the best, as it answers a double purpose—furnishing a fine yield of excellent honey through the entire season, and also being first-class for hay. Catnip, horehound, mustard, sunflower and raspberries are also good honey plants.

The subject of wintering bees and ventilation were next discussed. Dr. Dallas favored full stocks, with plenty of honey and a double-walled house to put them in. He leaves off the covers, or gives full upward ventilation.

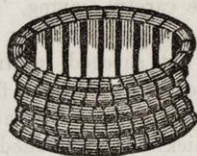
A good dry cellar, perfectly dark, was considered next to a building made on purpose, and all who keep bees in this variable climate were advised to put their bees in at least as comfortable quarters as a cellar.

On motion, the Society adjourned.

L. J. DALLAS, President.

G. F. MERRIAM, Secretary.

## Ladies' Department.



[For the North American Bee Journal.

### My First Article.

*Mr. Editor:*—Permit me, through your JOURNAL, to give a little of my experience in the keeping of bees. Although a new beginner, I take a deep interest in their management; also, I read many valuable lessons from the JOURNAL, and more especially in the Ladies Department, which I see well represented in your paper. In giving my experience I don't expect to give any very flattering account, as that of some of my elder sisters in the cause, and especially the younger ones.

I commenced bee keeping three years ago. The first winter before I commenced keeping bees I read several articles from your pen in the *Detroit Free Press*, which led me to engage in bee keeping. These articles gave me many ideas that I never had learned before, and they soon begot a deep interest in my mind upon the subject of bee keeping. But now the great difficulty with me was to know how to handle them, but I concluded that I could try. Pa bought five swarms; I had told him that I knew I could handle them, and was going to try, if I had the bees; I had got to handle them, as Pa would not. According to your direction I prepared myself with a good roll of cotton rags, which, when on fire, gave

me a beautiful smoke. I approached the hive with a degree of firmness that I would conquer them. I commenced to blow smoke, while Pa told me to be careful, saying, "You are not a Moon or a Quimby yet," but he did not succeed in driving me away, though I sometimes felt a little timid when the bees flew around me pretty thick. I approached the hive gently and commenced smoking the bees; I was sure to give them a good one; I thought if a little was good, more was better, and soon the bees commenced to come out by hundreds. I thought first they were after me, but soon found out that I had smoked them too much, and they were trying to get away from the smoke. I examined the hive with ease, and then tried another, with the same effect; found that a little smoke was just as good as a great deal. When the bees commenced to roar it was a sign of surrender, and when I had succeeded in controlling the bee I thought the battle won. In the spring of '70 I had seven swarms; have lost a few and now have 26 swarms, which are in good condition for wintering. The largest yield I got from one swarm was 47 pounds of box honey. They have give me 28 pounds on an average, which is very well, considering the season, which was not considered very good here. I sold some of my honey for 30 cents a pound. Some of my bees are very peaceable indeed, while some of them are very peevish and quarrelsome; much like some folks; they are meddling with some one's business.

I hope to be able to make as good a report next year as Miss Emma did, in your last number. My bees are now in moveable comb frame hives, and if I succeed in getting them through the winter I will have a fine

start for the coming season. This will open to me a beautiful field of labor. And how pleasant it is, Mr. Editor, to know that this field of labor is alike open to all, the poor as well as the rich. Here female ambition can reach an elevation seen and admired by a whole community; here the nerve and the muscle, and the business talent of the more matured manhood, can have full scope for enterprise, and labor, and abounding success; here the poor orphan can rise to affluence in the scale of society. How much better then, if more would engage in its work; what a valuable treasure it would be to this beautiful country of ours. Mr. Editor, I am pleased to see the JOURNAL so welcome a visitor; I am sure its pages will be read with interest by every intelligent bee keeper in this country. There is great need of more light, and if the people could understand the interests of the bee keeper, and a little less self, and give us more light, what a blessing it would be. Our fast increasing population must necessarily increase the demand for honey, and there is a wide field before us and room for all. Yes, there is space for all to take part in increasing this rich treasure, and should our numbers be multiplied we will then have more company.

This subject assumes a magnitude not before imagined, when it is known that we realize such profits from such small capital, and when it is considered that the aggregate of bee keeping in this country, in one year, is over eight millions of dollars. It is a great legacy to our national wealth, and if more of our ladies and young men would enlist to follow bee keeping, what great good might there come from it.

Excuse this lengthy and poorly

written article, and in my next I will try and do better. Wishing the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL success. MISS SUSAN CARTER.

*Buffalo, New York.*

[For the North American Bee Journal.

### Boys.

*Messrs. Editors:*—What to do with the boys is a question which sometimes troubles wise heads. I know some people consider them a sort of nuisance, capable of making any amount of noise, and always ready for any mischief, whether it be pulling the cat's tail, teasing little sisters, or playing with powder and matches in the barn; but, with all their pranks and capers, I like them, and consider them a very much mis-used portion of society. Boys are very much what we make them by our treatment of them. Girls are nice little bodies, so we dress them nicely, make birthday parties for them—but a boy's birthday party, who ever heard of such a thing? and as to fixing them up, why that is altogether out of the question. But never mind, boys; while the girls are confined in doors to prevent their clothes from becoming soiled, you can climb trees, fish, build dams, and have more real fun than could be gotten out of the most splendid suit of clothes in town, besides building up a strong constitution in your already robust little body.

It is the boys of larger growth who cause the greatest anxiety to parents and guardians; and how can it be otherwise when almost every corner, in country as well as in city, has its groggery and billiard saloon, with all the attractions men can devise to entice the boys and ruin them. Boys

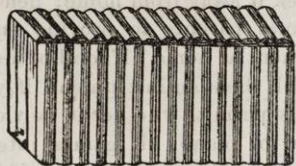
must have amusement and recreation after their day's labor. If they cannot find it at home, they will be apt to seek it away from home; hence it becomes parents to provide entertainment at home. If fond of music, furnish them an instrument, if your means permit, whether it be violin, guitar or piano; if games interest them, provide innocent ones; if fond of reading, by all means supply the best of literature, and endeavor to cultivate that taste where it is deficient, although plain clothes must be worn in order to incur the necessary expense of purchasing suitable books and papers. Amusements are not the only things necessary to make boys feel an interest in home affairs. If they can claim something as their own, it will be a stimulous to them. If they like bees, let them have a swarm all their own, the avails of which go into their own pockets; or let them manage some of the poultry, raise a calf or pig for their own—not their's until killing or selling time comes, when it belongs to father. Such management is a great discouragement to boys, and rather disgraceful on the part of the father. Finally, if we want to keep our boys out of mischief, interest them in their work, give them plenty of it, and let them feel that it pays.

BESSIE BROWN.

*Vienne, Ohio.*

THE "Farmers' Friend" is the title of a small pamphlet containing a description of the bee-hive published in our columns, under the heading of the "New Bee-Hive, Patented by Geo. J. Wheeler, Mexico, N. Y." For circulars address J. H. B. Moody, general agent, Manchester, St. Louis county, Missouri.

## Editors' Table,



OCTOBER, 1, 1872.

### Valedictory.

Readers of the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, it pains me to write an article under the above caption, but existing circumstances and the present condition of my health warns, indeed compels, me to retire from the editorial arena. It troubles me much to be compelled to do so, but when I know that in leaving the JOURNAL in the hands of Brother Moon it will be as successfully edited, I feel relieved, for I only a few months since felt that the great desire of my heart was to live to be instrumental, in connection with Brother Moon, in giving to the bee-keepers of North America a journal that all might be proud of; but now I am admonished that my days are but few, and that there is something higher and better to be looked to in the not far-off future. While this is the case, I expect so long as I live to write for the N. A. B. JOURNAL, but I can not be an active member as heretofore, but will be found in the field in proportion to the strength that may be left me. In retiring as one of the active working editors, I feel proud to say to all bee-keepers throughout the length and breadth of this continent that there is yet at the helm a man who is well known to most of you as one who is a disinterested party to any patents now

in existence, and as he has always been, so will he continue to be an expounder and promulgator of all things pertaining to bee culture. It is true that we have some cunning professional, loud-tongued so-called bee men, who claim to be doing a great deal for bee-keepers, while they have sought to injure the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and its senior editor; but what of it? Yea, the eyes of the bee-keepers of this country will some day be fully opened to the fact that these men were not called, but came of their own accord, and that the whole secret of the matter is that there is a *nickle* at stake, and in order to obtain it long prayers will be made in high (heavenly) places. Where is it that these prayers are to be heard, and where are they published to the world? Yea, it is in New York City; and we find them sent out through the columns of some of the Bee Journals. Now, brother bee-keepers, let me say one word to you, and I say it in all kindness, believing it to be true; that if you are not on the look-out you will be taken in. I know of what I speak; and as a friend in bee culture, and desiring to see every man succeed, I warn you to look out for breakers. It is enough when I tell you that the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL has taken an independent position, regardless of the love or hate of any man, and it will continue in that straightforward course to the end. This is why the New York enemy (not friend) is trying to pull it down; but, no, he had as well try to cross the Pacific Ocean at one stride as attempt to pull down this institution. It has been cheered on and on by *all* the readers of the JOURNAL, both North and South, and still they come up to our help; and, friends, ere long the circu-

tion of the N. A. B. JOURNAL will exceed our most sanguine expectations; and let me say to my friends South that you now have and ever will have in the N. A. B. JOURNAL one that will stand up for your interests, and this journal, in connection with the Bee-Keepers' Guide, (denominated THE APIARY), will be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the South. So long as I am able to contribute my mite to the JOURNAL I shall do so. Now is the time for all who expect to give any attention to bee culture to subscribe to the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and get the Bee Keepers' Guide free. Hoping to retain my strength sufficiently that I may write an article each month, I will close by saying to all friends of apiculture to stand by the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL to the last.

WILL R. KING.

*Franklin, Ky.*

OUR friend, Mr. E. I. Josey, of Huntsville, Texas, in a private letter, gives us a description of Texas as being one of the best States in the Union for bees; all that is necessary is to have persons that understand the business to make it a success. They winter their bees on their summer stands without any protection whatever. He further says their prairies are a natural flower garden for at least eight months in the year. This certainly would make an Eldorado for the bee-keeper, and will, we trust, answer some of the numerous questions asked where they could find a good locality for an apiary. If Texas should give a succession of flowers for eight months in the year, and the winter being so mild, then it must necessarily follow that country is especially adapted to make bee-keeping profitable. And we would not be

surprised to hear that some of our young, energetic and enterprising young men, upon due reflection, would conclude to take up the line of march for that land that flows with milk and honey, providing they can be so successful as to induce a Miss Emma, or Miss Annie, or Miss Ella, or some one of the fair and noted Misses in apiculture, to share with them in this noble enterprise in the sunny South.

MR. D. D. PALMER, of New Boston, Ill., writes us that bees have not done very well there this season, saying the basswood and white clover was almost a failure; yet he has on an average 100 pounds of strained honey taken by the honey machine. Their principal resource for honey was from the Mississippi bottom autumn flowers. We doubt very much if many have beat this in localities where the honey crop was an average yield. Mr. Palmer has promised us an article soon.

IN this number we publish the valedictory of Mr. King, one of the partners of this journal. His health for a few months past has been very poor indeed, which has prevented him from attending to business. The many friends of Mr. King, while regretting his withdrawal from the JOURNAL, will be pleased to know that, should his health permit, they will hear from him often through the JOURNAL. May success attend him.

THE "American Bee-Keepers' Guide" is the title of a new book published by E. Krethmer, of Coburg, Montgomery county, Iowa. The book contains much valuable reading matter, and should be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the land. Price, fifty cents.



THOSE wishing to secure a complete volume of the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL will send along their subscriptions early, as the two first numbers are nearly exhausted. The volume complete will be of great service to you for your library; it is of the right size for binding, and can be kept for your children's children. Yes, it will teach the unborn millions yet to come, many valuable lessons. Remember, the JOURNAL is published in the interests of the bee-keepers of North America. Remember, bee-keepers, that while we are laboring for your interest, we have no patent bee hive to carry with this JOURNAL. Our interest shall be your interest, and every man shall share alike. The advertising columns are opened alike unto all. It is our duty to work for the interest of every bee-keeper in the land. This is our platform, and upon this the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL was first issued, and we shall cling to the banner, thanking the Press throughout the land for the many congratulations they have given us both of the JOURNAL and Book.

LOOK well to the bees. Reports from several quarters reaches us that bees have not accumulated much honey. Some fears are entertained that many swarms have not honey enough to winter on. All swarms should at once be examined, and if found with not sufficient honey to winter, they should be strengthened, either by an exchange of combs from other hives or doubled up, or even fed. This should be attended to before the weather gets too cold. We had prepared an article on wintering, but we have too many valuable articles to be crowded out for something of less value.

### Literary Notices.

AMONG our valuable exchanges is the *Ohio Farmer*, one of the best agricultural journals, in pamphlet form. It contains a great variety of valuable reading matter, on agriculture, horticulture, apiculture, and in fact everything pertaining to the interest of every farmer in the land. Only \$2 per year.

THE *North Western Farmer*, the only agricultural paper in the State of Indiana, is published monthly by Messrs. Kingsbury & Billingsby, in the city of Indianapolis. The *Farmer* contains everything that pertains to the farmers' interest. It is taking rank with the leading agricultural papers of the day, and should receive the patronage of every farmer. Price, \$1 50 per year.

THE *Cultivator and Country Gentleman*, published weekly by Luther Tucker & Son, of Albany, N. Y., is one of the old stand-bys, and, as usual, is filled with the good things of interest. Every branch is fairly represented, from the highest to the lowest. Pamphlet form for binding, price, \$2 50 per year.

THE *Rural Carolinian*, published at Charleston, S. C., is among our list. It is a fine agricultural journal of 70 pages, embracing as great a variety of reading matter as any agricultural paper in this country, and should be in the hands of every farmer. It contains valuable information, both foreign and domestic, as well as agricultural, commercial, manufacturing and art, from almost every State in the Union. We bespeak for it an honored future. Price, \$2 per year.

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	1 Month.	2 Months.	3 Months.	6 Months.	1 Year.
1 Page.....	\$16	\$30	\$45	\$ 80	\$150
1/2 Page....	12	20	30	55	100
1 Column..	10	18	25	45	85
1/2 Column.	8	15	20	40	75
1/3 Column.	7	12	17	25	40
1/4 Column.	6	10	15	20	30
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Outside of back cover, double rates. Inside of back cover, 50 per cent. added to rates.

Bills of regular advertisers payable quarterly if inserted for three or more months; payable monthly if inserted for less than three months. Transient advertisements, cash in advance.

We adhere strictly to our printed rates. Address all business communications to  
**NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL,**  
 Publishers.

**BEE-KEEPERS' DIRECTORY.**

Parties desiring to Purchase Italian Queens and Colonies, will find in this Directory the names of some of the most reliable Breeders in this Country.

Cards inserted in this Directory, and copy of the paper sent one year, for \$10 per annum, cards to be four lines or less. For each additional line \$2 per annum will be charged. A line will average six words.

**QUEENS! QUEENS!!**

After August 1st, 1872, I will send by mail, my best Queens for \$2.00 each, purity and safe arrival guaranteed.

Neucli Hives, five frames each, pure queen, fumigator, and best feeder in use, \$4.00.

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 From Pure and Imported Stock.

All varieties of Useful and Ornamental Poultry, Fancy Pigeons, Lop Eared and Angora Rabbits, Song Birds, Guinea Pigs, etc., etc.

Nothing sent C. O. D. Terms—Cash to accompany the Order.

**ITALIAN BEES and QUEENS.**

Having made Apiculture and raising "Italian Queens" a specialty, I offer for sale

- 1 colony Italian Bees (in my "Dixie" Hive),..... \$20.00
- 2 colonies Italian Bees (in my "Dixie" Hive)..... 36.00
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- 1 pure Italian Queen..... 8 00
- 2 pure Italian Queens..... 6 00 each
- Over 2 pure Italian Queens..... 5.00 each

I guarantee purity and safe arrival of all Colonies and Queens I sell, when they can be shipped the entire distance by steamboat, rail or express. In my

**DIXIE HIVE**

I have endeavored to combine all the points I considered essential for successful bee culture in the South.

1st. All parts of it can be sawed by any saw-mill without the tedious ripping out the triangular pieces for top of frame required by most frame hives

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4th. **The frames are simple and strong**, made with only four nails and four pieces of wood. Will not come apart on being lifted out.

5th. **Each frame is entirely independent** of and does not touch the other, and any one can be lifted out and examined without disturbing any other.

6th. **The Hive being composed** of two compartments, each complete in itself, can be used for a large or small colony without a division board.

7th. **Proper ventilation**, that the bees will not cluster out many hours of our long, hot summer days.

Any one buying bees of me can make and use as many of my hives as they wish, or I sell them as follows:

- 1 Dressed Hive, painted..... \$5 00
- 1 Undressed Hive..... 3.00
- Or material sawed and packed, with a sample Hive..... Per dozen, 25.00

Remittances must always be sent by Registered letter.

Any one wishing to purchase Bees or Hives, will please address

**L. S. HEREFORD,**

Hermitage Post Office  
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**HONEY EXTRACTOR.**

Get the best, most durable, and lightest running Extractor in the market.

I make my machines with a close fitting top, to keep out flies and dust, or without full top, as purchasers wish.

A boy ten years old can empty the honey and turn the machine with ease, as only the light frame inside the can that holds the comb, revolves.

Also, get the best

**KNIFE****FOR UNCAPPING HONEY.**

It needs no hot water to keep the cap from sticking to it or help its cutting.

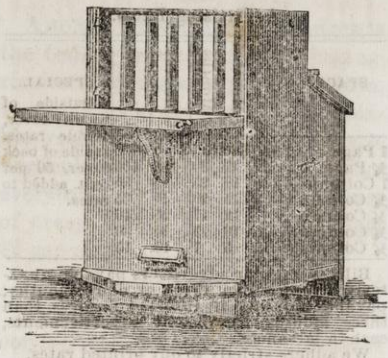
Send stamp for terms. Address,

**R. R. MURPHEY,**

*Fulton, Whiteside County, Ill.*

P. S. This machine took the premium over four others at the Iowa State Fair.

## WESTERN

**QUEEN BEE HIVE,**

Patented Jan. 9, 1872.

**H. STAGGS, Patentee,**

*TOPEKA, KANSAS.*

This Hive was built expressly for the masses of the people; is cheaper than any in use; has all the acquirements needed; most any one can build them; is a perfect winter or summer hive. The frames are drawn easier, with less injury to the comb and bees, than any other hive. It is a perfect Queen raiser and breeder. It can be contracted to any size.

For particulars, address,

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**HENRY'S  
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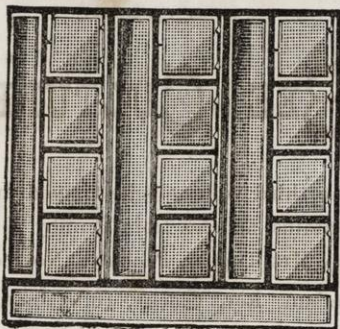
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IS NOW READY FOR SALE.

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 Model Nurseries, \$4.  
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I will breed a few Queens for sale this season from

## CHOICE MOTHER,

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For the State of Illinois, except the Counties of Mercer and Lassel.

We offer Counties, Townships, and Individual Rights, for sale on reasonable terms.

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## BEE CULTURE.

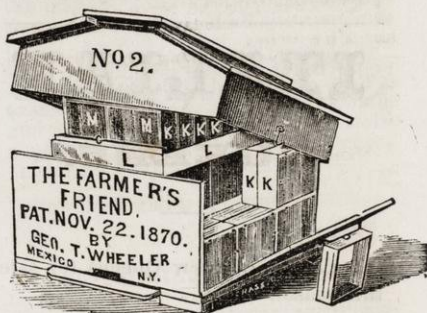
The third volume is just issued, and contains articles from Quinby, Gallup, Mrs. Tupper, Packard "Novice," Dadant, Rev. Clarke, (of Canada) Cole, Davis, Creville, (of Italy), Dr. Parmby, the editor and others, and the best of the series. Price 50 cents.

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TERMS, TWO DOLLARS EACH.

## ITALIAN BEES.

I wish to say to my friends and  
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queens of undoubted purity for the  
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Italian Queens for sale. For circular,  
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VIEW OF THE 40 INCH HIVE.

After years of practical experience with the Triumph Movable Comb Hive, I feel fully warranted in recommending it to the bee keeping public as having no superior in the country. It is the best winter hive ever invented; and equally as good for summer, for it is the only well ventilated hive ever offered to the public.

I am a practical bee keeper of fifteen year's experience, and do not offer you something that I know nothing about, as most bee-hive patentees have done heretofore. I am well aware that the too credulous public have been *humbugged* time and again by the many things called bee hives praised to the skies by unprincipled venders.

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One farm or individual right .....	\$ 5 00
One farm right and one 22 inch hive complete .....	8 00
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22 inch hives cut ready to nail together, per ½ .....	12 00
22 inch hives cut ready to nail together, per dozen .....	22 50

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One farm right and one hive complete .....	\$10 00
One farm right and five hives complete .....	27 00
One hive with trade mark .....	5 00
Hives cut ready to nail together, per ½ dozen .....	18 00
Hives cut ready to nail together, per dozen .....	34 00

#### OFFER EXTRAORDINARY.

The above prices are for hives shipped from Franklin, Ky., or Nashville, Tenn.

Parties ordering hives from any of the Southern or South-western States will apply to Will. R. King, Franklin, Ky., or to Samuel Larned, No. 145 South Vine St., Nashville, Tenn.

Wm. M. King, of Champaign, Ill., will give any and all information in regard to the sale of territory in the North and North-west, as well as furnish hives at reasonable figures.

With a view of introducing my hive into every county in the United States, I will sell to the *first applicant* from each county, one township, voting precinct, or civil district, corresponding to a township, (by whatever name called,) for the sum of \$10 00, and send one hive for \$4 00. *This is a chance for several persons in such a district to club together and get the right very cheap,*

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BEEHIVE.

Patented August 13th, 1867, by GEORGE SLUSSER, of Hillsboro, Ohio.

This hive has been before the public nearly five years, and has been tried by the practical bee men in various States in the West, and wherever it has been put to the test, it has proved itself superior to all others. It is especially adapted to wintering on the summer stands, and at the same time very cool in summer. It has also been proved by actual weight, for the last three years, that bees consume but one-half the honey during the winter, in the Cottage, as they do in single wall hives. Then again, the ease with which they are handled makes them universally liked wherever tried. State, county or township Rights sold low. Address **GEORGE SLUSSER**, Hillsboro, Highland, Co., O.

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I am prepared to fill a limited number of orders for pure Italian Queens and full stocks, at the following rates:

- One Tested Queen, - - - - \$5.00
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Liberal Discount on large orders.

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QUEEN & BEES,  
HIVES AND RIGHTS  
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Agents wanted to every town in the United States, to whom very liberal commissions are given. Circulars free. Address,

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WARDEN & RUSSEL, are my authorized agents for the State of Tennessee, persons in that state should address them at,  
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The GLOBE MICROSCOPE.

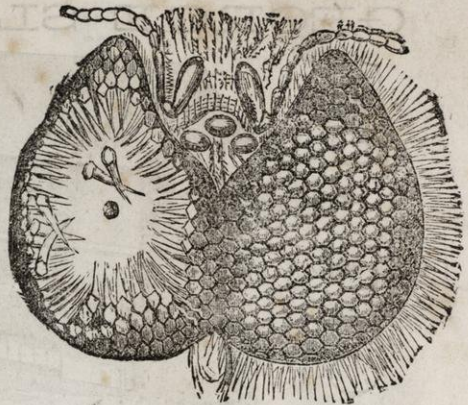
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Address,  
A. F. MOO





BEE'S FOOT.



BEE'S EYE.

We present our readers in this number of the *JOURNAL* with a honey bee's eye and foot, showing you the great power of the microscope. By making a very fine, sharp instrument, a thin section of an insect's eye, and examining it in the *Globe Microscope*, the numerous lenses or differently-facing small eyes into which the eye is divided, are shown. The insect's eye being fixed stationarily in its head, it has the compensatory power of seeing objects perfectly in one direction through any one of these many discal facets without turning its head in the several directions. We offer to anyone sending us five subscribers for the *JOURNAL* one year, one of these celebrated *Microscopes*. We furnish the book with the *JOURNAL*. This liberal offer, we trust, will enable many to procure one of the greatest inventions of the age. Or, we will furnish them at \$2.75 each, prepaid. All orders addressed plainly to A. F. Moon, NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL Office, at Indianapolis, Ind., will receive prompt attention.

## BEES AND BEE HIVES.



# THE THOMAS PATENT BEE HIVE

Patented February 2, 1867.

This Hive, wherever it has been tried and fully tested by the most practical Aparians in the United States and Canada, has given as great satisfaction as any hive ever introduced in America.

This Hive was exhibited at the Michigan State Fair for the years 1867 and 1868, and coming into competition with several of the leading hives now in use, was awarded the first prize over all others. The committee was unanimous in giving this hive the preference, as being the best for all bee men. The hive is made cheap and durable. It was awarded the first prize at the Provincial Fair in Canada; it has also received the first prize at every county fair in Michigan where exhibited.

I have yet the following States for sale: New York, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and four southern counties in Michigan. All of which I offer for sale at reasonable terms.

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