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## **Moon's bee world : a guide to bee-keepers. Vol 2, No 4 March, 1875**

Rome, Georgia: A. F. Moon and Company, March, 1875

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# MOON'S BEE WORLD,

— A GUIDE TO —

## BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME 2.

MARCH, 1875.

NUMBER 4

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### REVIEW.

BY JEWELL DAVIS.

FOR THE JANUARY NUMBER.

Our Friend, Frank Benton, talks to us by a "Stray thought or two," yet after all, I am not quite certain that they are from home, or that they are not common place, all over the country, both north and south, and particularly in his southern clime. Say, friends of bee culture in the south, will you acknowledge that your northern aparians have a better appreciation of honey and the bee journals than you have? Rouse up, then, and do not let brother Benton talk so about our southern bee-keepers another time. Will you suffer him to say you lack "general information" on the subject of bee cultures.

Why do you let the honey of the linden, poplar, clover and aster "waste

their sweets on the desert air," while it is of such financial importance? Of course, we join with friend Benton to urge that the Southern people awake to their "real interest" in the science of bee culture and the reading of the BEE WORLD.

Our friend Johnson of Shelbyville, Ill., gives us the benefit of his experience in bee culture for 1874. He tells how to succeed in every case, and how to avoid the ill fate of many. Not forgetting to hit my friend "Novice" a little rap as he passes along.

Brother Argo you are right. No progressive bee-keeper can afford to do without the BEE WORLD in the Western or Southern States. Again, it is right that the Southern people should have all the credit they deserve in their rapid improvements in the care of bees. Sorry to learn it, that the BEE WORLD is a little tardy in making its monthly visit. I wish it could be on hand a little sooner in the month, so I could write up the review earlier. You are right again, friend



Argo, if the communications were in for the WORLD earlier it would be issued a few days sooner, and that might be a benefit to all. Remember to write for the BEE WORLD early in each month. I would advise Brother Argo to let Connoisseur alone in the GLORY he has in his assumed name. Only urge that he reveal the secret we have asked him for so many times, or own that he made a mistake, and claimed to do more than he can.

Brother Kellogg entertains us with his "Scraps" a moment about shipping boxes or cages, and certainly those who have queens to ship will notice what he says on that subject.

Friend Palmer, as usual makes his "chips" fly, and the first relates to the flight of his bees December 1st 1874. The next pertains to bee robbing and how to prevent it. The third chip is thrown at Brother G., down in Georgia. The fourth strikes at the foolish notion that everybody should keep bees, whether he has a capacity for it or not. The fifth chip is designed to hit every one who uses nails, tacks, bent wires or other devices to keep the frames from oscillating together.

He says gravity will keep them right, if made true. The balance of his chips are stored up.

Friend Staples informs us how to winter bees in the South, and that the mortality among bees there is nearly equal to that of the North, and arising chiefly from the notion that they need no care in the South, which is not true. He then gives his method; read it with care.

Uncle Harry speaks for all the bee world to hear him about the bee disease, and informs them that he wants a few dimes from every brother beekeeper who can assist him to solve the mystery.

He says when the bee journal spoke of his good intention, no one responded. He wishes to know if you will assist. The BEE WORLD says his step is one in the right direction.

Brother McLean, I have told the correspondents of the BEE WORLD to send in their communications early, and certainly they will do so, if they want the journal on time. Let no one be afraid to write for the BEE WORLD, for we are all a clever set of fellows—wanting all the news in bee culture that can be obtained, from every State in the Union.

The subject of hives and patents we are told, is becoming stale, and that we ought to think more about pure honey and how to keep it from being adulterated by the honey dealing sharks, who are bringing the extracted honey into disrepute, and as a remedy he recommends publishing their names. See in another place Dadant's remedy.

Our old friend Hazen, as usual deals in facts and figures, and you know they are called stubborn things; read his article.

#### REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY NUMBER.

Well, first I am made to say my frames are 17x14 inches. This is a mistake for they are 17x12 inches.

Friend Rambo chats to us about "Broken Pieces," in the shape of honey dews, etc. We advise all not to take sides until they are sure they are right, then go ahead and refute his notion about the honey dews if they can. Next, Broken Pieces refers to clipping the queen's wings, attempting to show that it may lead to deformities in her offsprings, and who knows but that it may occasionally cause one of her daughters to be defective in one wing?



Friend Argo almost seems surprised to find the BEE WORLD on his table so early in December. May it always take him by surprise in that way. I pass over his remarks on the standard frame this time. Certainly we think it will be a good thing for every bee man to know all about the honey seasons of each State, and latitude, or locality in the Union, and, of course, we can only know this by the bee-keepers in each locality writing it for publication in the bee journals. I trust each one will improve the opportunity and let us hear from them about the honey harvest in his locality, and how long it continues each year, and from what source it is chiefly derived. Noting particularly the state of the atmosphere, and all other points connected therewith.

Our brother Burch, after a long absence from the columns of the journal, now appears again in the BEE WORLD. I hope he will never forsake us again, for we always like to read his articles on bee culture. He notes his misfortunes, and what he intends to do next season in piling up mountains, of surplus honey above his 100 pounds to the colony of the last season. We suppose his next article will enlighten, with a splendid halo, our benighted minds, in regard to the worthy deeds of the Michigan bee-keepers.

Friend Dadant is still writing up the history and character of the Italian bee for the benefit of Dr. Brown and others, and I am satisfied to let them figure it out to their satisfaction.

Brother Parlange is in favor of us taking our bees to Louisiana to winter. Well, as I have already said, that might be nice, if we were so situated that we could. I certainly would like a more congenial climate.

Friend Nesbit argues the question of cheap queens for the benefit of brother Argo, and for all others concerned. Both parties hit upon some nice points in the queen trade worthy of note by the purchaser.

We are sorry that friend Sherendon has forgotten what he intended to write about during the winter season for the BEE WORLD. I agree with him that everything is laid aside to permit the quiet reading of the bee journals when they arrive. I trust friend McLean will not hide because brother Sherendon thinks he is afraid of a broadside from some fictitious name. Then comes his views about the cheap queen business, and shows where its "tricks" come in. Read his remarks.

Friend McLean notices some improvements in the BEE WORLD, and hopes they will continue until every correspondent will write over his proper name, and every advertisement will be on sheets that can be removed when we want to bind the journals into a book for preservation. We favor this latter idea. Then we have his way to manage the apiary for February. This is of special value to the bee-keeper, who will read it with care.

Friend Murray places his anathema upon those who adulterate honey, indicating all should shun them. He also pays his compliments to the North American Bee Convention.

Uncle Harry and the microscope are showing up the bee disease. Will all see if his discoveries are of value in that direction? Will the frosts of severe winters merely check the growth of the vegetation he finds in the honey, and the warmth of the bee cause it to spring into active vegetable life again as soon as eaten by the bees?



Brother Dr. Rush thinks Dr. Davis wields a "savage pruning knife," and that he feels relieved when his "Reviews" do not appear in the BEE WORLD; yet he allows the general tenor of the Dr.'s criticisms are good, but he says there is "too much old nature in his pen."

Of course we think this does not exactly mean all it says, and hence conclude that he thinks we write our reviews to "find fault." If this is friend Rush's conclusion, I must say he is mistaken about the "old nature" in our pen, for we would not cut one hair from his worthy head with our pruning knife.

Let me say to all correspondents of the BEE WORLD that their articles will meet with kind treatment from our pen, and the "lance" and "bistoury" will never be used if life can be saved without their use; or, except to make the readers understand more clearly what the writers are saying.

Well, Dr., we shall wait a moment, as you request———until you have made it plain. You ask, would not queens treated similarly be just as imperfect? We think they stand a chance to be so.

Two lines of report concerning Italian queens are now cited. Then we are asked to tell which to believe. We answer the true one, if you can find which that is. We think Dr. Rush not only made the "incision," but he used the probe also, without waiting for our consultation concerning the probing.

Friend Dadant informs us that the best method of determining pure honey is by graulation. That pure honey does not crystalize, but granulates as in candied honey. Please remember this.

Friend Fletcher calls our attention to the contradictory statements of bee-keepers. Read and learn what he is driving at.

Friend Simmons, do not be afraid to speak out your mind about bees and hives. We know you are right, that every bee keeper should subscribe for the bee journal.

Charleston, Ill., Feb. 1875.

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## WINTERING BEES.

BY D. W. FLETCHER.

MR. EDITOR: AS I have a little leisure I thought I would write you how bees were doing in this vicinity, that is, how they have wintered up to the present. Bees have not had what I call a good fly since December. We have had a very little thaw—one day in January, just enough to warm the bees up nicely, call them out, and there they would perish. The air was too cold for them to return. Well, why did you not shade the entrance, etc? some one may say. I did shade it, or tried to, but it was of no use. They would rush out of the hive and fall down and die by hundreds. Well, this passed away, and the weather was colder the next day. I keep the entrance of all my hives shaded by placing a wide board up edgewise in front of the hives. In the winter I think it keeps the entrance from becoming blocked up with snow and keeps the storm out. What I want to find out is this: If any one can explain to me and the readers of the BEE WORLD, what makes bees come out of the hive when the thermometer is at zero, and the entrance shaded? My frame hives are all prepared in the following manner: The honey boards are removed.



and in place I put a piece of factory cloth over the tops of the frames and then place the cap on the hive and fill it two-thirds full of buckwheat chaff, but in all my endeavors they will come out when the thermometer is at zero. I have a few box hives that does the same. Well some one will say, winter your bees in a dry cellar, or special repository, and this trouble will be obviated, etc. I have already put a few coloneis in a good dry cellar in box hives; these, of course, are inverted, and a piece of cloth put partly over the mouth of the hive. The cellar is dark and still, but they come out and die the same as those out of doors. Well what is the matter, what is the cause, and who is to blame? etc. I think the cause is long continued cold weather and close confinement. Yet I do not know, it is just simply my opinion. I think that bees are very curious in many respects, and it will be a great many years before the successful cultivation of the honey bee will be brought to perfection, in my opinion.

Some bee-keepers succeed well in wintering on summer stands and others do not. Some succeed well in cellars and repositories built for the express purpose of wintering bees and others do not. Whether it is the climate, honey, or what I do not know. Sometimes it is in bad management, but what I have reference to is when all things have been put in readiness for their successful wintering.

I sometimes think I will let the bees go to the winds and pay no attention to them. Then again, I like to work among them, and when they all die I go and purchase more. I have partly made up my mind "If at once you don't succeed, try, try again." But

Mr. Editor, I tell you when a person has a fine, choice lot of bees, and prepares them for winter with all pains and carefulness, and then to have them die and dwindle away without any apparent cause (unless we lay it to the weather,) it makes one feel mortified and discouraged. At least it does me. I would like to keep bees for pleasure if nothing more, but am getting discouraged. Sometimes I still live in hope that everything will work for the best, but sometimes I am almost compelled to think different.

Bees are wintering in some localities in this country first rate, and in others they are not. I find the same applies to bee culture as in other business. Some are successful and others are not. The reason for this state of things I will not try to explain, because I cannot tell why it is thus. I would be pleased to hear from others as to how bees are wintering in various localities through the columns of the BEE WORLD.

In the spring I will endeavor to make out a full report of the number of colonies of bees kept in this town, the style of hive that is mostly used, how they have wintered, etc.

With my best wishes to yourself, and all the readers of the BEE WORLD, I will close by subscribing myself as a lover of the honey bee and all that pertains to its comfort and successful cultivation.

Lansingville, Tompkins Co. N. Y., Feb. 1875

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There is a difference among bees as to industry in comb building and honey gathering, even where the location, weather and management are the same.



## LONGEVITY OF BEES.

—  
 BY E. KNIGHT.  
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Of late much has been said of the honey bee.

It is known that queens often live four or five years. Drones are usually short lived. But whether they do or do not become enfeebled by age is a question of no practical importance; for the instinct of the workers terminates their existence at the close of the honey season.

The worker is generally said to be short lived. One writer says: "The worker lives eight or nine months in winter, and only three months in summer." This is a loose statement; for she could not live eight or nine months in any one winter; hence, the bee that lives eight or nine months in winter, must have lived through one intervening summer, or perhaps I should say through an intervening season, of at least six months, which is, according to this writer, twice the length of the worker's summer longevity.

But let me ask, how are we to determine the age of the worker?

A few years ago a box of honey was taken from a hive the first of August. The queen was in the box, and of course the bees would not leave it. Tobacco smoke was tried without effect. I took the box apart, captured the queen, and sent her with a few workers, in a glass tumbler, to be returned to the hive. The tumbler was inverted and slid over the hole that communicated with the box before it was taken from the hive. The bees instantly killed the workers, and even tore the queen piecemeal.

A little more than eleven months after the box was taken from the hive

I introduced a queen cell, and although but few bees remained, a queen was raised and it became a prosperous colony. Some of the old bees must have lived until the progeny of this queen larvæ had reached maturity, and consequently they must have been more than one year old,

Two other cases have come under observation where I am satisfied that bees lived more than twelve months without a queen.

Moreover, I have never seen an Italian queen introduced into a colony of black bees, when no black bees could be found in the hive a year after her introduction.

I hope some of your readers who are Italianizing their bees will make careful observation and report the result. It seems to me that this furnishes practical and reliable data from which to draw general conclusions.

If we depend on cases where the queen has been removed, there is a strong probability that when the colony becomes weak it will fall a prey to moths or robbers before the experiment is completed.

My own observation leads me to the conclusion that overwork, chills, storms, and other casualties kill more workers than old age.

I am of the opinion that bees do not wear out in cold weather as fast as in warm; consequently bees may be longer lived in northern New England than at the South.

## NORTH AND SOUTH.

The North produces the finest quality of honey; the South at least three times as much.

Bees increase far more rapidly at the South than at the North. More bees are lost by the moth at the South than at the North.



Robbers are more troublesome at the South than at the North because bees fly a much longer time when there is little or no honey at the South, than at the North. Hives should be much larger at the South than at the North. All things considered, bee culture is far more profitable at the South than at the North.

Fort Fairfield February 16th, 1875.

## BEEES IN MISSISSIPPI.

BY I. APPLEWHITE.

A. F. MOON: Three numbers of the BEE WORLD received and I find the contents very interesting. I have been trying my hand on bees for two years, have the Italian bee, and use Hereford's hive, with frames 9x18 inches—eleven frames to the hive—use two stories, or one, at pleasure.

The old bee-keepers here say the two seasons past have been very poor for honey, and I have found it so. Last year my bees gathered no surplus honey until the first of September, when the smart weed bloomed, and for five weeks yielded an abundance of honey of the finest quality, so that my little pets had almost winter supplies, are now strong and healthy, and are to-day as busy as nailors, carrying honey and pollen from the wild peach tree, which is our first honey producing plant. Next comes the maple and the swamp willow, and the peach, blackberries, apples, and varieties of the "gum" family upon which the bees work a great deal, though I cannot say what the quality of honey is they produce. We have also the basswood, the beach, the poplar and many other native forest trees that are said to produce honey, be-

sides our grasses and weeds, with which I am not very familiar. And then, when the season is favorable, which has not been the case within the last two years, we have bountiful supplies of honey dew. I consider the smart weed by far the best honey producing plant we have, though I never knew, or heard until last year, that it was good for honey, or for anything else.

The only bee enemy I have encountered, that I consider at all formidable, is the mosquito hawk, or dragon fly. That pest puts in an appearance about the middle of June, and they gradually increase in numbers until they rival the locusts of Egypt, or the grasshoppers of Kansas. They disappear about the first of September. It is painful for me to see the pretty little pets gobbled up right before my face, but I see no remedy against these jayhawkers, for they are so numerous, thronging the air high up, and as far as you can see in every direction, that the army of Xerxes could make no impression on them to signify. Of course the bees can gather no honey while these hawks abound, for they pounce upon the bees on the wing, on the flowers, and on the lighting boards in front of the hives, just as a chicken hawk does upon his prey, and when they settle to enjoy their delicious morsel they are very apt to find a perch high up on a tree entirely out of reach. As to the bee moth and the cockroach, they are so easily kept under that I hardly consider them worth naming to a man who uses the moveable comb and frame hives. My location is, just a little north of the 30th parallel, and we have no trouble in wintering, in fact make no preparation for it, only to



contract the entrance to a very small space during the few cold spells we have. I am only an amateur bee-keeper, and a learner, and write more for information than to instruct.

Osyka, Pike county Miss., Feb. 12th 1875.

### THE HONEY SEASON.

BY GEORGE I. LEACH.

EDITOR BEE WORLD: The February number of the BEE WORLD is at hand. I like Argo's suggestion in regard to bee-keepers giving the time and duration of the honey season in their locality. I will give you the time and duration in this locality: The honey season commences here with the blooming of the peach trees, which is generally from the last of February to the 10th of March. There is then an intermission of about ten or fifteen days, until apple and other fruit trees bloom. The bees then gather no more honey until white clover blooms, some ten days later. White clover generally lasts till the 20th or 25th day of June. We then get no more honey until about the 5th of August. The season then lasts the remainder of the fall. The fall season is generally the best we have. The past season was the poorest I ever saw, until fall, when my bees done fine. I extracted from some of my hives as much as 85 pounds in four weeks; extracted as much as 31½ pounds from one in eight days. That was doing pretty well, was it not?

Mr. Editor, I like the WORLD very much. It is the journal for Tennessee. We don't need all the advice given in other journals about wintering. Success to the WORLD.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 22d, 1875.

### SKETCHES FROM TENNESSEE.

BY S. D. MC'LEAN.

#### "CANDIED HONEY."

MR. EDITOR: On page 78, February number friend Dadant says, "it is therefore of great importance for bee-keepers to inform the consumers that if they buy liquid honey, from December to June, they get a spurious article, or a mixture which has lost right to be called pure or natural honey."

Now we believe that the intention of friend Dadant was to throw a safe guard around the interest of the bee-fraternity.

But the language as above quoted without some qualification does great injustice to the Southern bee-keepers.

Honey in the North may all be candied by December but not so with honey in the South. We don't calculate on our honey, in quantity, candying before February, and our poplar honey, which many assert is our best honey, will not candy for months or even years after, if at all.

Still, by the above rule, if our honey is sent to market between December and June in a liquid state it is to be considered "a spurious article, or a mixture which has lost right to be called pure or natural honey."

#### HONEY SEASON.

Friend Argo wishes to know when the honey season begins in middle Tennessee etc. We can not speak of the whole but in our part of middle Tennessee we have two principal and very important honey seasons distinguished as the poplar and linden. The former begins about the first of May and lasts about three weeks; the latter begins about the 20th, of June and con-



tinues three or four weeks. During both honey comes in very rapidly.

Good stocks during their continuance will often store from one to two hundred pounds. Between the two harvests they gather little more than will keep up active brood rearing: white clover being the principal dependence and with us it does not yield in great abundance. After the linden harvest is over bees gather sufficient from cotton bloom and iron weed to keep up lively brood rearing until about September when the golden rod followed by the aster open their thousands of petals to the ever active emblems of industry and the hives are again filled and sealed up for the long repose of winter. Some of my hives are now so filled with honey gathered late in the fall that it will be necessary to remove it and supply empty combs for the queens to have room.

Prior to May our bees gather enough to keep up brood rearing from plum, peach, apple, hard maple etc.

#### SCARED.

No, friend Sherendon, we are not scared but only wish to allay the scare, of Sherendon and others who have taken refuge in the bushes, and also try to induce them to come out and appear unmasked for apiculture is no masquerade but a drama in real life and we think for mutual benefit the personal should be real also.

#### APIARY FOR MARCH.

March with its blasts alternate with calm is again upon us and with it the continued vigilance of the apiarian is brought into requisition. Ever on the alert, he should see his bees often and see that prowlers do not become pestiferous. We suggest that a thorough over-hauling during calm weather in this month would be advisable.

If any are scarce of stores, supply the demands. If any are queenless and too weak to wait until a fertile queen can be given, they should be united with others without delay for a strong colony now is worth two weak ones. Bees increase in early spring in proportion to the strength of the colony. True perhaps that a good queen in a weak colony will deposit very nearly as many eggs as one in a strong colony, but there being an insufficient amount of workers in the weak to care for so many eggs and to keep up the requisite temperature of the hive, they ruthlessly destroy nearly all and the consequence is that the increase of the colony is retarded. But with a strong colony the greatest capacity of the queen may be brought out, for there are bees enough to keep up the required temperature of the hive and care for every egg that the queen may deposit and consequently that colony increase in strength very rapidly. It is some times beneficial to spread the brood nest by separating the combs in the center and placing an empty comb between combs of brood which the queen will soon fill with eggs. But in this there must be judgment exercised for there is danger of overdoing the thing. In this, as with many other manipulations in the apiary, our advice is to make haste slowly.

Culleoka, Tenn., Feb, 18th, 1875.

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#### QUEENS—TESTED AND DOLLAR QUEENS—SHERENDON.

BY R. A. M. ARGO.

FRIEND MOON: I wish a small space in the WORLD to reply to friend Nesbit, page 68, last number, and the same reply will answer part of Sher-



endon's "masked fire" from out of the bushes on next page, as I believe that one of his aims was at me. I am not sure of this, but however, in the course of my answer to friend Nesbit, I will pitch a few fire brands into the bushes where I saw the smoke. He is the same man that fired at me from out of the bushes in the October number, page 327, in relation to cropping queen's wings; and I think he is the same "masked man" who wrote the article on the same subject, page 178, May number, over the head of H. His fire at me on page 327 was a true aim, but he did not hit. His doctrine there was all true, but it does not disprove my assertion. I come to my conclusion by long observation and close experience, and he has not yet advanced anything new to me. It is not impossible for Dame Nature to play off her freaks among bees as well as other species of the animal kingdom. I wish Sherendon would present a bold front like friend Nesbit, for I do not like to throw fire brands into the bushes.

But to Nesbit—I did not give the highest price I had paid for imported and home-bred queens by way of argument, that we who pay good and high prices to get the "simon pure" stock should get more for said stock than cheap queen breeders. This is the way friend Nesbit understands me, but the prices were given merely as a matter of course, by way of explaining the general principle in all trades, that if we expect a genuine article and number one, we must expect to pay a good or reasonable price for it, and that a genuine article (pure queen) is better to begin with. But of course I did not mean to infer that we always get the genuine article

when we pay a good price. I might have set friend Nesbit right from the start had I only added to my former article on the subject that the \$17,50 queen from Italy was a spurious article (hybred) as was also a home reared one purchased at another time and paid a big round price for.

I had reference to a certain class of cheap queen breeders when I said that such men sending off impure queens, &c. Does not friend Nesbit's very question, "How are we to know who are reliable," prove that he believes there are such a class in existence? Who doubts it? But as a class, I believe bee-keepers, as a general thing, are the most honest and reliable of all other live stock breeders; yet there are unreliable men in all trades. I have been in the poultry business some time, and I find as many, if not more biting dogs in that line of business than in bees. I had to tear through thick briars to find honest and reliable men, and get the genuine article, and then had to pay reasonable prices. I agree with friend Nesbit, that editors of bee and other journals should admit no advertisements to their columns until they are satisfied that said advertiser has got good bees and is honest enough to do justice to their patrons; but to the main question.

Cheap queen breeders are not all dollar queen men. Friend Alley is a cheap queen breeder as is A. M. Johnston of Mentor, Ohio, and others, and if they sell dollar queens I don't know it. There is difference between dollar queens and cheap queens; you all can see it, but I doubt whether you all look at it in the same light I do. A dishonest and unreliable man can take hold of the dollar queen business, and



shelter himself behind it, but not so with the cheap queen breeders; his queens are guaranteed pure, no matter how low he may price them. He has to stand to his guarantee or lose his reputation if he has already acquired one. "Blood will tell," but there being no guarantee on the dollar queens, not even safe arrival. Dishonest men can easily avail themselves of it, and not be detected.

Now, if a cheap queen breeder can afford to sell at one dollar, and make his guarantee good and give his customers satisfaction, I say all right. I referred to no such instance as this, for the man is not living that can fill this bill at one dollar. I am aware that this is a fire brand thrown into the bushes at "Connoisseur," but he need not get scared, I know him and his retreat, and am not going to tell others where it is. He may lay still and fire away, I don't think any one can afford the cheap queen business lower than friend Alley, and he only by devoting all his time to it, but if he had tested them I doubt whether he could afford to sell for less than the majority of tested queen breeders do.

Now I agree with friend Nesbit that honest men can and do make mistakes. It would be a strange thing if they did not sometimes. But I never hear half, nor I believe one-third the complaint made against tested queen breeders, that I do against those guaranteed tested. These latter you know send off before they are tested with a promise to send another if they prove to have met a bad drone. This sort of breeders putting their price so low, take a large number of orders and get hard run to fill, and in the mean time some of the queens they had sent off prove hybrids; others

are sent for to make the guarantee good, and the breeders being in a great press to fill his orders is unable to send others for some time, and so we hear complaint, in the hurry and skurry of business. I waited on one of these sort of breeders fourteen months, on another over two years. This class of breeders even if perfectly honest, are more liable to make mistakes.

## SHERENDON.

Friend Sherendon in next page, paragraph eighth, seems to refer to me or those who are opposed to dollar queens. He says, "Now you purchase of Mr. A. a queen warranted tested, and so forth. This cannot refer to me for I have never sold queens warranted tested. A warranted tested queen is sent off before she is actually tested. He seems to convey the idea that we who don't approve of dollar queens are trying to keep others from underselling us. Is that the best accusation he can think of? Do we not know that the dollar queen business is an advantage to us, as it will increase the demand for tested queens, and if we can hardly raise tested ones fast enough to fill orders, what do we care how low others sell but for the reason given above that it will bring the business into disrepute.

Friend Sherendon now tells me something new after all, viz: He says, "Another point in this queen raising is presenting queens to notorious breeders for their good opinion, and so forth." Now this is new to me. I did not even know it. May I ask him who this fire is at? If he will only take off his "mask" and come out of the bushes, I would not be the least surprised to see a "dollar queen man." I beg pardon for being too long.

Lowell, Kentucky, Feb. 18, 1875.



## NOTES FROM MISSISSIPPI—A PERSEVERING SWARM OF BEES.

BY ANNA SAUNDERS.

On the 19th of last May one of my queens was accidentally killed. Sickness and rain prevented my taking out the surplus queen cells, and on the 4th of June the bees swarmed, but rain coming up returned to the hive after settling. The rain ceased before dark, and I cut out all the queen cells I could find, inserting those I wished to save in a nursery, which I put into the same hive, it being too late to open another.

Next morning with the first peep of day I was there, but I found that early as I was, I was too late. They were already swarming. They had clustered before it was fairly day, and after sprinkling them well I ran to the house to give out breakfast, thinking as it was so early they would be patient a little while. But patience was not in all their thoughts. Before sunrise they were swarming again, and after long delay and flying in various directions, settled in the same place, on a nice little branch, which I cut off with the flower shears. Having put comb, eggs and brood of different ages into a hive, I had no trouble in getting them in, and carried them immediately to the intended location.

In a few hours they tried it again. I inserted a card of honey and they returned and took possession of their own accord. I fancied my trouble was over, but no, I soon heard the music of bees swarming, and rushed out to find the malcontents on the wing for the fourth time, but unable for a long time to decide where to settle, and when they did settle they

changed their minds almost immediately, and tried it over again, finally choosing the body of a tree; from which, as it was now dusk, I dipped them and poured them at the entrance of the mother hive, having already disposed of the stores they failed to appreciate. Where do ye fathers say I did wrong? Perhaps if I had released one of the young queens among them it might have answered, but I did not think of it. I often find my swarms go right to work to raise a queen, and immediately give them brood and eggs when I give them. Once I had five swarms come out at the same time, and thought I could not manage to get brood for them all; one seemed so discontented that I got brood for it, and the instantaneous change in the conduct of the bees was touching to see; the change from misery to happiness, no language could have told it more plainly. How happy it made all those little creatures by giving them a little brood!

Woodville, Mississippi, February 2d, 1875.

## SUNSHINE ON FRONT OF THE HIVES IN WINTER.

BY H. NESBET.

FRIEND MOON: Many writers tell us not to allow the sun to shine on the front of bee hives in winter—to lean a board up against the hives to shade them, to prevent the bees from coming out and getting chilled, so they cannot get back, and say many bees will get lost if the hives are not shaded.

My experience is just the reverse. I have never known any bees to be lost in that way. After several weeks of cold weather, the first warm day



there will be some bees on the ground in front of the hive that will die there, but it is not caused by getting chilled. They are old bees that would have died soon if they had remained in the hive.

If you will examine the ground in front of the hives any time in summer, you will find scattering bees for two or three rods off trying to fly, but unable to rise. They are all the time trying to get farther from the hives. It seems to be their nature to leave home to die when they can get away. Some persons say they will alight on new fallen snow, and in their efforts to rise will sink in the snow and perish. I have never seen a bee thus perish, and I have often looked to see it. In this locality whenever there it snow on the ground, and it gets warm enough for bees to fly out, of their own accord, the snow in a few minutes will pack down so that the bees can rise off of it if they were to alight on it.

There will often be bees settled down in the snow, almost buried, but these are the old bees that come out to die, and often they had lain on the snow an hour or two, the snow will melt around them just the same as a straw will sink on ice in the sun when it begins to thaw.

But is this not a blessing? as it is said freezing is an easy death, and these old bees soon chill, and it puts an end to their suffering.

On the contrary I want my bees to have all the sun they can get in winter and spring, and fly out as often as possible. To be sure they will consume a little more honey, but what is honey compared to the health of the bees?

Two years ago our bees were confined over four months by cold and rain, and nearly all died in this vicinity. Last winter they were never confined to the hives more than two weeks at any one time, and all wintered well.

You may say it was not the confinement but poor honey. Well let them have a good warm day that they can fly and discharge the fœces once in ten days or two weeks, and they will winter on almost any kind of honey if they have plenty of it.

I would sooner advise to take the top or caps off for a few hours on sunshiny days to let the sun shine on the honey board, or quilt or mattress, or whatever you have over them to warm them up and cause them to fly. Don't be afraid of them coming out too soon. They will poke their little heads out at the entrance, and some will crawl out a little way to feel of the weather before taking wing. They have too good a thermometer within themselves not to know when the atmosphere is warm enough to venture on "a fly."

Friend Moon, the above is contrary to the teachings of some of our old Northern bee-keepers. You have had experience both in North and South, so what do you say—shade or no shade in front of hives in winter?

My bees have been confined since the 27th of December, (over 31 days,) and we are now (29th January) having quite a snow storm all day, but it melts almost as fast as it falls—thermometer at 36 degrees Fah.

Cynthiana, Ky., February 1875.

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Write for the WORLD; give us your experience.



## VARIETY.

BY HARRY GOODLANDER.

FRIEND MOON: As much has been said in regard to the sporting of the Italian bee, impure queens, etc., now in my experience I have found that I can produce different colored bees from the same queen, i. e. a part of the season. The workers shall be very light; all queens raised at that time shall be very light, and a part of the season all workers shall be very dark, and all queens raised then shall be dark; although all are the progeny of one pure queen. When you wish dark bees let them have free access to water highly impregnated with iron for a few weeks, but be sure you keep a good supply of empty comb in the hive. It is what I use to stock fast with—shall test it further. Well, friend bee keepers, in a former number I asked assistance to carry forward experiments, but who has assisted? As yet, not one.

Mr. Moon, I wish they would assist me, for I think I could throw some light on subjects that are now very dark.

Leesburg, Kasciuska county Ind., Feb. 6, 75.

## BEEES IN INDIANA.

BY A. W. WILKINSON.

I am much pleased with the BEE WORLD, and prefer it to any other I have yet seen, and all the more, because it hails from the South. Though I am in the North, and interested in the culture here, yet I am pleased to get special and reliable news from the South, knowing less about that than of the culture in more northern latitudes, and besides, feel a strong inclination to go South if the

way would open to do so, and go into the culture of the "little busy bee."

My bees have wintered pretty well so far, but I have had to tuck about them considerably. I had some nuclei presented to me last fall, to feed and winter if I could. Having a very dry but not very warm cellar I wintered some of them, and put them away into winter quarters near the last of November. All seemed to go well until the first severe cold snap, when on examination, I found one of them the weakest, and in the coldest place, had ceased to move or show any sign of life. I brought them into our warm sitting room, and found the queen had fallen with other bees on the bottom of the box, and life apparently extinct. I took her in my hand, and held her near the stove and soon she began to show signs of life, and in a little while began to crawl, and became quite lively, and nearly all the bees came to life likewise. I fixed them up in comfortable quarters. This was on the 15th of January, and January 28th, finding a colony of black bees queenless, I transferred them from their box hive into my moveable comb hive, and put my "resurrected" Italian nuclei, queen and all, along with them, and so far, they appear to be doing finely, and this morning, on examination, I found another of my Italian nuclei had apparently gone into the silence and stillness of death. Finding them out of supplies, not having fed them for several days, I thought they had starved to death, and were a worse looking prospect than the others, but I took them through the warming process, and now, four o'clock this afternoon, they are lively, in new quarters and well fed, looking as much like "weath-

ering the storm," and yet seeing brighter days, and sweet flowers, or many others. I did not think when I picked up my pen I should extend this scribble as I have; but now friend Moon, should my "resurrection" bees do well the coming season, I may report all such other items as may be of interest with your permission, and if you think you can glean any items from this hasty sketch, it is at your disposal. But be sure to send my journal as soon as possible, as I am anxious to see it "Moon" light pages  
Hartford, Ohio county Ind. Feb. 8th, 1875.

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### ECHOES FROM TEXAS.

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BY A. H. R. BRYANT.  
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DEAR EDITOR: In looking over the different lists of honey plants, I see no mention of my pet flower, scabiosa, (morning bride) which you will see advertised in most of the catalogues of flower seeds. We have been growing it in our flower garden for two years past, in limited quantities, and notice that our bees swarm over it during the whole day, while they visit many flowers only in the early morning.

I shall sow the "scabiasco" pretty extensively this spring, it is a most beautiful and fragrant flower of almost all shades, from virgin white to very dark purple, have the name "marine bride."

I notice the Japanese peas are spoken of in very high terms as a honey plant, by T. E. Hardwick, of Cleveland, Bradley county, Tennessee. He says "the blossoms excels buckwheat for bees." Let us hear from others who have had any experience with it. We have sown buckwheat several times, but have not succeeded very

well; it would commence blooming in three weeks after sowing, and bees work on it in the forenoon, but not in the evening; but when the drouth came on it would dry up. I shall sow in corn next time. Who has tried it in corn? If you have please report. I shall sow sun-flowers for bees the incoming season, and report in due time. Sweet mignonette is highly spoken of as a bee plant, but I never have seen a bee working on it yet.

We are having a severe winter for this climate, yet my bees are wintering well. But then bees have but little protection here. Winter before last, 1872, I bought two stocks in old barrels with openings in the head and side large enough to put your hand in among the bees, and no coverings, and yet there was plenty of bees and honey in the spring.

Kaufman, Texas, Feb. 12th, 1875.

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### THE CHURCH BEES.

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"They are all out and hard at work to-day, your reverence, although it be Sunday. You mind the hum of them, like the deep sound of the organ far away."

It was our old and feeble sextoness, Mrs. Garland, who spoke, looking up to the church roof just under the steeple. From beneath two large slates, streams of bees came pouring forth incessantly—a dark cloud of them, which seemed to be in constant motion, hung over the place. As they issued out from under the slates they paused a moment on the slanting roof, tried their wings, which shimmered in the sunshine, and then joined the moving cloud above. From the outer edges of the swarm bees innumerable continually darted off. If you have



good sight, you can see that some make for the garden of the old Manor House, where spicy-smelling flowers grow; some fly to Curragh, where sheets of golden furze continue still in bloom; while some spread to the rolling hills, which to-day have a hue of puce about them from the blossoms of Irish heath. As old Mrs. Garland said, the hum of our church bees, is soft, low and deep as the diapason of an organ. On fine, sunny days you can hear the sound in the air ever so far away, like the tones of many Æolian harps played on by the wind. Should you come early for even-song, and sit awhile on the ancient tombs, with your feet on the carpet of short, crisp grass, you will see them all returning home richly laden, some powdered over with the yellow pollen of scented flowers, many with little pink or yellow balls of wax or gum from buds of trees fastened to their thighs; but the main body carries in unseen the precious honey to store away for winter time, when there are no flowers and the air is cold. You can see how way is made at once for those who seem to labor under heavy burdens, and how they are helped up the sloping slates by other bees, set apart, I verily believe, for that special duty. Be merciful and tender if you find a weary one resting on your dress, or painfully toiling through the dwarf clover which grows upon the graves; they may have been caught in a summer shower, or perhaps the moisture on the grass, where the shade of trees lies dark, has wet and chilled them. They will unfold their wings and dry them, and, after a short circling flight, will soar away home. Bees will never sting your hand if you do not try to brush

them off. The warmth of your palm will comfort an unwilling loiterer; very soon he will stretch out his hinder legs and brush down his wings, and, piping a little song of thanks, will fly upward. Some people pretend to be bee-charmers because bees do not sting them; their secret is not to be afraid of them or hurt them. Bees have a wonderful amount of instinct, and, like dogs and horses, seem to know their friends.

It is twenty years and more since these bees traveled through the air to Ballysax steeple. Villagers saw them rolling like a ball toward the Manor House, but the sextoness was ringing our sweet church bell on that sunny Sunday morning in July. They liked the sound, perhaps, and turned aside a huddled yards or so, and passed into the steeple through the gratings of the belfry. They found the place tenanted by bats, whose odor is disagreeable to the bees. It happened, however, that there was an aperture or slit where one slate overlapped another the cement had crumbled away. Through this the bee scouts crept, and wandered over the great area between the slates and the oak lining of the roof. They saw ties and cross-beams, and rafters all in order, from which millions of bees could hang their combs. There were no enemies, for bats could not enter through the narrow crevices, and there were no swallows to bear off the tiny insects on the wing. So the scouts returned and made a favorable report. I am told that the bee-camp rose in sudden commotion, and, leaving the steeple, passed into the roof; there they have increased and multiplied and stored their honey until now. I want to tell you that our bees have never swarmed



and, although we have sought diligently, we have never discovered a slaughtered drone. I suppose there is food enough for all in that vast co-operative store. Yet they have ample room to spare, and therefore no poor drones are murdered, and no swarming colonies are driven out for lack of food or territory.

Three years ago I was induced by the cleverest trout-poacher in all my parish to remove a slate or two, and to try whether we could not obtain some of the honey everybody knew to be treasured up there. So plentiful is it, indeed, that in hot summer days some of it melts and trickles through the ceiling and down the walls of my narrow vestry, which is situated in the basement of one tower of the church. The walls are all stained with it, and the color, mixed with the whitewash, is certainly not pretty. They prepared for the attempt as if for the storming of a citadel. They had lights and sulphur and masks, and gloves tied round the wrists, but the bees were on the watch. The guards which appear at twilight, marching up and down and crossing each other's path before the entrance of the hives announced the presence of an enemy. The two bee-hunters were daring men, and, as I know, skillful poachers of hare and salmon, but they were forced to retreat. They came home smarting with stings; the angry bees had followed them long after they had escaped from the church-yard, and had got by some means under their clothes. They managed to bring home a large and heavy dish of honey, but it was old and dark colored, and had an unpleasant medicinal effect on those who had courage to taste it. They told me that on putting their heads into the

hole, caused by the removal of the slates, they discovered that the bees had hung their combs under the second tier of rafters, where the new honey could not be reached without sawing away portions of the timber which support the roof. The combs, they said, hung down like stalactites in a cave. So on the next wet day, when the bees could not venture out, they replaced the slates as well as they could, taking care to leave apertures in the fresh mortar for the bees to go in and out. There they have their citadel and magazine, no man, daring to make them afraid. You can see them on any warm day in summer working away, each in his own order, and all singing as they work. I wish I knew their language, and could find out how many queens they have, and whether their laws are the same as those which prevail among bee communities caged up in narrow hives. We are all proud of them somehow; and I love, for I am an old man now, to talk about them to the visitors from the Curragh camp, who come to prayers at Loretto in the wilderness.

When there is soft music in the air, without a breath of wind, our Sunday scholars say their pleasant lessons in the ruins of the old chantry of the church seated on fragments of carved pillars. The church-yard has been for centuries the last home of the villagers, and it is beautiful as a garden with weeping larches, and holly-trees and laurels, and tall box and dwarf pines, and sparkling clover enameled with a thousand flowers all over and round the graves. Here we sit, the children and I, talking of the blessed Master, who had a loving eye for every object of nature, and spoke so tenderly about the birds of the air,



about the twittering sparrows, about the young ravens crying for their food, about the lillies of the field which outshone King Solomon. There was a little girl in my class, and I made her proud one day by telling her that her name—Deborah—really meant a bee, and that Deborah is mentioned in the oldest and sweetest pastoral story of the old Scriptures. We traced out this ancient Deborah who lived so many hundred years ago, and found that she was the nurse of fair Rebekah when the maiden left her father's house and chose to go as a trusting bride to Isaac, whom she had not seen. And Deborah was sent with her (Genesis xxiv, 50) to tend the young wife in her new duties to her husband and his parents. Well, she must have performed her duty amidst many trials, for when she died Jacob buried her with great solemnity and sorrow under an old oak-tree, and all wept so much that the oak was ever afterward called "The Tree of Weeping." (Genesis xxxv, 8.) And there was another Deborah, who, like a queen bee, ruled the whole people of Israel, and pronounced her decisions as she sat under a palm tree (Judges iv, 5.) She it was who put fire into the heart of cautious Barak, son of Abinoam, and made him wage war upon the tyrant Sisera, and hers is a noble song of victory which is read among our Sunday lessons (Judges v.) But all the children knew the wonderful riddle of strong Samson, and about the swarm of bees which had built their combs and placed their honey in the skeleton ribs of the dead lion (Judges xiv, 8.) I have said that our bees followed the bee-hunters out of the church-yard and stung them; and so of bitter enemies the hoary Scrip-

ture says: "They chased you as bees do;" and like bees they compassed David round about (Deuteronomy i, 44, Psalms cxviii, 12) And as the bee—the working, earning, loyal bee—is not handsome in appearance, not half so handsome as the huge humble bee, with his bands of glossy black and brilliant orange, so the son of Sarah warns us that although "the bee is little among flies, yet her fruit is the chief of sweet things" (Ecclesiastes xi, 3.) Travelers tell us that bees are more abundant in Palestine even than in Assyria (Isaiah vii, 18,) and hence Palestine is the land which flows with milk and honey, set apart for the people of Israel. Thus we learn something even from our church bees as we sit among the graves and hear them singing—something which may do us good in this world and in the world to come. [Rev. George B. Wheeler, M. A., in Sunday Magazine.]

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#### NOTES FROM ALABAMA.

BY KATE R. GRAYSON.

MR. EDITOR: You say I must write you an article occasionally for your BEE WORLD, but how am I to write when I know dothing in the world about bees—not even one bee from another? However, as I am determined to learn to be a bee keeper, and want all the information I can get. I know of no better way to get it than through your valuable journal. I see some who write for information (beginners I mean) say "I contemplate going into the business largely." I differ with them. I prefer going into it smally (if I may be allowed the expression) at the start, and then if I find that I can manage them success-



fully increase as I find knowledge. I have six stands to start with, want to transfer from the old box gum in which they now are in movable comb hives as soon as it can be done. And then when I have learned to manage the blacks easily Italianize. This is the advice Mr. A. J. Murray gives me and I am satisfied it is good. He writes me: First learn to manage the black bees, and then Italianize." My father always kept bees, but he and the negroes managed them, I knew nothing about them except to eat their honey after it was put on the table. That part of the business I understood to perfection and enjoyed immensely. I have always been timid about approaching bees, and I believe they know it, for they take the liberty to sting me every chance they get. The sting of a bee swells my flesh very little, but O, the pain! As my little four year old curly-haired boy said one day when he got stung by playing too near the hives, "It hurts and hurts and keeps on hurting." It is like a shock of electricity.

I am anxious to start with my bees and yet I dread it for several reasons. One is, I am afraid of them—there is no use denying it. Another, my neighbors know so little about improved bee culture, but few having ever seen a bee journal, and those who have disbelieved what they see in them, they ridicule my enterprise and laugh at me so much about my "new whim," if I should make a failure, how they will tease me! Notwithstanding all these obstacles however, I shall give it a trial, and depend on you and other bee-keepers for assistance in the way of information and advice. So please help me, gentlemen, (and lady bee-keepers too) each and all of you, and

if I should be so fortunate as to succeed, will give you all the credit. The work that will necessarily devolve upon me I do not mind at all. I love work, it is a blessing given to man for his good. But for work I should doubtless have been dead years ago. Through the kindness of yourself and Mrs. E. S. Tupper I have been provided with a number of bee journals for which I return many thanks. I am also under obligations to "Novice" for two numbers of his "Gleanings," for which he will please accept my most sincere thanks. I like his "Gleanings" very much, and think his volume 1st the very thing I need. I wonder if I could get it complete? I will also take this occasion to acknowledge the receipt of a circular from Dr. J. P. H. Brown of Augusta, Ga., and return him thanks for the same. I feel grateful for any and all favors, particularly those giving me information in regard to the management of bees, their habits, and so forth, as that is the subject in which I am most interested at present. As above stated, I have six hives. When would be the best time to move them from where they now stand to the place I wish them to occupy permanently? Distance, about twenty or thirty yards. You see I am making considerable calculations on "floral apiary" after awhile. Name suggested by the name of Dr. Brown's apiary. He I presume, is a brother granger, and being passionately fond of flowers, also representing the office of Flora in our grange. I thought it a most appropriate name for my apiary (in prospect.) You would laugh, Mr. Editor, were you to see "Floral Apiary" just at this juncture. Said apiary consists of three hives sitting on an old bench made of



a log split open, flat side turned up, supported on rocks at each end, two more on a short plank bench under an apple tree near by. Sixth and last, some distance from the others at the corner of my strawberry garden flat on the ground. And now a word about the inmates of this last mentioned hive. They are very small, darker colored than the other bees, and ill—well, nothing can begin to approach them in point of irritability, unless it be Mr. Mitchell's Egyptian bees. I certainly think they must be first cousins to his. I laughed no little over his description of the Egyptians, and never look at my little black bees without being reminded of his article. I dread transferring that colony more than all the others, and yet it is the richest hive I have. Like friend M's Egyptians, they have honey but they intend to keep it. There is not the slightest disposition on their part to divide stores with any one.

Will you or some of your readers tell me what the tulip poplar is? Is it the common poplar that grows in this country? If it is I think I will follow the example of friend "Novice," and put me out a forest of it as he did of basswood. What is basswood—does it grow in this country? If it does it is called here by some other name. I have procured seed of Lucerne, red clover, rape, alsike clover, and have planted a small patch of catnip. I wish to get some buckwheat and esparcet seed. These are all new plants to me except the catnip. Never saw any of them in my life. My object is to experiment with all and see which will succeed best in this climate.

I sent on for some mellilot clover seed and received the package marked "millet." Having never seen mellilot,

I am at a loss to know whether it is what I want or not. I send you a few seed that you may inform me as I presume you know all about it. I received the rape seed all right. Many thanks for them. Also return thanks to A. Miller and D. W. Fletcher for information received from them recently. I beg pardon for having consumed so much valuable space in your journal, when not a word has been written that could possibly benefit any one. Though answer the many questions I asked; it will benefit the writer greatly. You will probably hear from Floral Apiary again some day, as I expect to "astonish the natives yet."

You should move your bees at once. They get their lives formed very early in the spring, and if moved late, many bees are lost. We think the tulip poplar is identical with the whitewood. With our abundance of flowers we think it would not prove profitable enough to plant trees for their honey.

During our residence here we have not seen the basswood, but presume it grows here, but not abundantly.

The seed sent is certainly millet. We hope to have mellilot soon and will send you a package. Write to H. Kruschke, Berlin, Wis. for esparcet.

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## IMPROVEMENTS IN BEE CULTURE.

BY JASPER HAZEN.

I was somewhat interested in a communication from M. Quinby in the February number of this work. I think it is a very clear mark of progress in that business, by the writer of the article. In the different editions of his work, I think he has



given us as the average product of colonies, in the 2000 cubic inch box hive, \$1,00, \$2,00, \$3,00, and \$4,00 worth at different times. This at 20 cents per pound is five, ten, fifteen, and twenty pounds, as the result of the hive which he tells us will give as much surplus, and in as good shape for market as any hive, and shall cost nothing for right to use.

When his edition of his book, patented in 1865 was published in 1866, says, "I shall again recommend the box hive as the best and most economical for a large proportion of bee-keepers—those who have no interest, time, or patience to study the science of bee-keeping—till they can give a philosophical reason why they should use a different hive."

At this time he had adapted moveable comb frame hives, differing in some particulars from Lanstroth's patent. When I had reached nearly the allotted age of man, three score and ten years, I interested myself in bee-keeping. I made several hives from my own fancy, resulting in the Eureka hive, patented July 2d 1867. In 1868 four colonies in this hive, placed there the previous season, gave me four swarms and five hundred pounds of surplus in about five pound surplus boxes. Mr. Quinby visited my apiary in that season, and gave me a recommendation of the hive and adopted it with some variations, but the same in all important principles. Now, Mr. Q. writes, "Twenty years ago I studied bees and kept them in the box hive. I sent to market the honey from all the bees kept in an area of twenty miles square. At that time it did not exceed 3000 pounds, and the average did not exceed ten pounds per hive, from the same section that now yields one hundred."

This is certainly a very great improvement. To gather, with the same number of colonies of bees, 30,000 pounds of surplus where before, but 3000 pounds were gathered from the same field is a surprising advance in the business.

Again he adds, "Every one of the bee-keepers named, uses the same kind of hive, and I know of no other from which as much surplus has been taken where large numbers were used."

Much is depending on the hive used. Mr. Quinby's hive to which reference is here made, has moveable frames. It appears that nearly one half the honey was extracted. In his reference to "where large numbers were used," he probably referred to the Eureka hive that gave an average of 125 pounds from four hives; but this was in a field where thirty colonies must have starved to death, and it had this advantage that it could be constructed with either frames or bars, though the first I built had frames. With bars, the boxes may be just as readily removed, and the bees as easily tended as in the box hive. Box room from 100 to 200 pounds at pleasure.

Difference 100 pounds half extracted honey, or 125 pounds all box honey.  
Woodstock, Vermont.

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## JOTTINGS FROM THE NORTH.

BY HERBERT A. BURCH.

The February No. of the BEE WORLD came duly at hand, and its cherry, beaming countenance was indeed welcome for it reminded us of the strange contrast which the freshness and beauty of its native clime would present, when compared with our own, veiled in snow



and ice, and swept by polar blasts. Ah, how often have we sighed for a milder clime during the past few weeks, when polar blasts of arctic's cold were vigorously trying to congeal the mercury, and old boreas was doing his "level best" to pile the immaculate snow in such prodigious heaps as to seriously impede all connections with the outside world; but we live in the hope that old sol may once more resume his former position among yon bright orbs" and finally come off "master of the situation, when we shall undoubtedly, have calorific in great abundance.

A perusal of the WORLD reveals the fact that it contains many well written articles, embodying good ideas and useful suggestions; still it leaves an unpleasant impression in some respects, for instance on almost every page there is a manifest spirit of captious criticism, which is conducive to no other result than personal animosity.

We are aware that it is easier to pull down than build up; easier to criticise the weak points of others than present a faultless work of our own; but this is no valid reason why we should harshly judge our neighbor; rather let us cultivate an amiable demeanor and seek to aid in erection of that temple of our science, which, beautiful in design, symmetrical in outline and faultless in construction, shall stand as a beacon light to guide us safely to the haven of complete success. Remember that you gain nothing in the estimation of others by inducing insidious aspersions, or abusive epithets.

Recall to memory all the persons who move in the social circle of your acquaintance and see if those who are affable and courteous in demeanor, ever having a good word for all, are not the ones who are esteemed and beloved

by the community in which they reside.

What is true of the social world is also true of the literary. True there may be times when personal insinuations may necessitate a manly self defence; and under such circumstances we believe in speaking plainly and to the point. But we must not longer dwell upon these else we'll have no space for other topics.

Judging from the tenor of the articles before us, there are two great questions of issue that agitate the minds of our Southern friends at present: cheap queens and a standard frame. In regard to the former it really seems to us that a little reflection, combined with a business view of the matter, would easily enable us to solve the whole problem. 'Tis strange!—passing strange—that people will persist in endeavoring to obtain a satisfactory solution of business problems from any other than a business standpoint: yet such is the case. It seems to us that the question, are cheap queens as good as high priced ones may be fully answered by asking another, viz:

"Will any man sell queens for less than they cost him"? Business pursuits are engaged in for the profits accruing therefrom. People don't usually intend to sell at a sacrifice; and we opine that the man whose queens cost him \$10.00 apiece, will not sell them for a dollar. If he does, his "head ain't level." That queens can be raised and sold for a dollar each, without any guaranty, we do not doubt: but they are cheap in the best sense of the term. We never yet received a queen that was fit for a queen mother, for less than \$5.00 and not one fifth of those were fit for this purpose.

With us there is more clear profit made by raising comb honey at twenty cents per pound, than selling choice queens at \$5.00 each.



The advantages to be derived from a standard frame have, we think, been greatly magnified. Yet admitting it to be ever so desirable, it must be clear to every reflective mind that its accomplishment is an utter improbability.

Look at the WORLD for instance. Every one is perfectly willing to adopt a standard provided you take his size and shape as a pattern. Twenty years ago when movable frames were few and far between there might have been some use in agitating this question, but its too late in the day, now. In support of this view of the situation, we'll submit our own case. Having carefully tested every principle involved in the construction of frames, we have ascertained that a certain size, shape and arrangement of them, gives much the most satisfactory results. Now do you suppose that we will ignore our own experience, and adopt something that ten years of constant experiment and investigation has fully convinced us is inferior to what we now use, simply that we may have what other people possess? Business people, who have an "eye to the main chance," don't usually do this sort of thing.

Ah, well, Mr. Editor, we're getting verbose again—a peculiar failing of ours when we get interested; and as you prefer brevity, we'll defer the rest till another time.

South Haven, Mich., March, 1875.

—o—

A poor farmer he is without hogs,  
And keeps neither sheep or bees;  
But instead has an army of dogs,  
And legions of jumping fleas.

The women churn, spin wool and flax,  
And melt the comb in cakes of wax;  
In swarming time they watch the bees,  
And smoke them from the lofty trees.

## NOTES FROM MIDDLE GEORGIA.

BY WM. A. PARKS.

MR. EDITOR: I think Mr. Argo of Lowell Ky., in the February number of the BEE WORLD, makes a valuable suggestion, in regard to the honey season in each State. So far as my limited observation may extend I will inform him through the Bee World the honey season in my locality in Georgia.

I am of the opinion that the Southern States are more favorable for Bee culture than the Northern.

I am rejoiced to see an increasing interest in the honey bee in my own State. As you know Sir, I am a beginner in bee keeping.

In my travels over the State I add my mite of influence to bee culture, and recommend the Thomas hive.

I began with the Buck Eye, but am very decided in my conviction that the Thomas hive is much superior to the Buck Eye and could give you my reasons for thinking so.

My bees are busy bringing in pollen, all colonies have honey enough for three months. I have just procured rye meal to increase the pollen, but do not know how to feed it to the bees.

Will you please inform me how to feed with rye meal. I was quite successful last spring in introducing an Italian queen into the weakest native colony I had. In seventy days it was the strongest colony. I think the native queen was too old, and doubled would have lost the colony this winter, had I not introduced an Italian queen.

In my travels I must call on W. H. G. of Sparta Ga., who writes in the last number of the Bee World. Who is he? why does he not write his full name?

Newnan, Coweta Co. Ga., Feb. 27th 1875.



## NOTES AND QUERIES.

Samuel J. Sloan, Garibaldi, N. C., writes: Bees are wintering well here.

S. D. Barber, Mattoon, Ill., writes: We are having a long cold spring. I do not know how my bees will come out, but I hope for the best.

Geo. W. Neihardt, Orland, Indiana, writes: Winter very severe here; bees must perish, especially those not particularly prepared for winter, many being entirely covered under snow drifts.

J. O. B. Dargan, Darlington, South Carolina, writes: Bee culture is awakening much interest in this section of South Carolina; climate and pasturage are finely adapted to this interesting pursuit.

P. W. McFatrige, Carthage, Ind., writes: I got 8,567 pounds of honey from forty-four colonies last summer. Can you beat it in Georgia? Have sold 5,817 pounds at 19 cents, net—slung honey.

J. W. Winder, Cincinnati, Ohio, writes: This has been the first day that it has thawed in the shade this winter. I got my bees out of cellar to-day, and found them in better condition than for several years. They have not had a fly before since the middle of November.—Feb. 22d, 1875.

W. P. Henderson, Murfreesboro, Tenn., writes: Have experienced a terrible winter; the worst for a number of years. My bees had a good fly on Saturday. Yesterday it was winter again. The cedar and elm commonly blooms with us the last of this month; peach, plum, and cherry in March, and white and red clover in April; the red again in August.—Feb. 18.

James LaBare, Cincinnati, Ohio, writes: My bees are in good condition. To-day they had a good fly, for the first time since December 25th. I want to move my little apiary South next fall, and would like your opinion as to best mode of packing to ship.

If you should move a very large number of hives, say one hundred, you would save money by chartering a car. Otherwise you would have to send by express. In either case, leave plenty of ventilation. Tack wire screens over the entrance, and have holes bored in sides and bottom. The cheaper plan would be to buy bees in the South, and transfer into frame hives.

Sherendon would be pleased to know of Mr. Rambo, if the cat he speaks of, at the time of losing her tail, was a "feme sole" or "feme covert," and whether or not she was at the time of the cat-astrophe "efficient." A correct knowledge of her situation will greatly assist in arriving at the proper conclusions in regard to the question of inherited deformity. Does not the male as well as the female, Mr. Rambo, transfer to his posterity his peculiarities of form, size and color, and may not your female cat, after the door shutter bit off her tail, have fell in love with some Floyd county Thomas cat, whose rudder had been by intention or accident curtailed, and which, if such was the case, assisted in producing that bob-tail kitten? Don't think you have a parallel case. Try again. Be certain your cat did not get frightened at a goat or buck-rabbit.

S. S. Alderman, Iola, Fla., writes: I am engaged principally in the culture of oranges. We think we have the best location in Florida for orange



culture. It is in its infancy yet with us; but I lived there three years since the war upon the St. John's river, (at Jacksonville), but in the mean time I was engaged planting a grove here. I was in the hotel business and met with numbers of people engaged in planting orange groves on the St. John's, and had good opportunities of informing myself as to their prospects in that way, compared with ours on the Apalachicola river, and I am fully persuaded that we have the best location. We are nearer the market of the States of Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, and in fact, all the interior country.

Our lands are infinitely better than theirs, and we are fully as well protected from cold. I have never devoted much time or thought upon bee culture. I have a young man living with me who attends to our bees. We keep them in the modest old style gums. But I intend hereafter to devote more attention to them. The pasturage for bees here must be fine. We shipped last year from about 125 hives five barrels of honey.

If you have any nice boxes made I would like to get a dozen to try and save some orange bloom honey. We had some honey last season made from the orange bloom that was delightful flavored.

We have a large swamp lying near us filled with the tuplar gum, and other growths that the bee feeds upon.

The route from Atlanta here would be via Columbus by rail, thence by central line of boats, to Iola. Fare through about nineteen dollars.

This swamp spoken of above is filled with wild swarms. Mr. Young, now living with me, cut twenty-three bee trees this year of these wild bees.

This is decidedly a good bee country—at least, I think so from the experience I have.

I would be pleased to see you at my house if you decide to pay Florida a visit.

Our lands are worth from one to five dollars per acre.

Large tracts of land for sale at government prices, one dollar per acre.—Feb. 24.

QUESTION.—Have you or any of your readers had or seen an Italian queen that would at all times and under different circumstances, duplicate her size or color in her royal progeny?

2nd.—If not, what of the doctrine that "like produces like?"

3d.—Some writers speak of the black bees of the South, and the brown bees of the South. Are they not the same bee, springing from a common mother? Had not the season of the year, size of colony, particular food, something to do with producing a different colored mother, that produced somewhat a differently colored worker progeny. TENNESSEE.

C. E. Wideuer, Cumberland, Maryland, writes: Last June while extracting I noticed some very peculiar looking honey in some of the combs, and resolved to keep it to itself. The honey when extracted, was colorless, and about as thick as white clover honey (it has some color now). I sold some to my neighbors and it made them all sick; I also sent some to Washington county, Md., but did not hear anything of it afterwards. Can you tell me what it was gathered from? I have sent you to-day a sample by express.

The sample received was certainly the finest looking honey we ever saw;



thick and clear. We presume exposure to air has neutralized the poison it once contained, as it has been repeatedly tasted, and has also graced our table, and been eaten with impunity. Did the wild laurel grow there, we should say it was gathered from that source, yet we do not know what color the honey would be, produced from the laurel. However, this honey elicited much praise for its delicious flavor and beauty.

## MOON'S BEE WORLD.

A. F. MOON & CO.,

Cor. Broad and Elm streets., Rome, Georgia.

MARCH, 1875.

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### STANDARD FRAMES.

Standard frames seem to be the leading topic for discussion in apiculture. There seems to be and we think will for some time to come, a diversity of opinion regarding a standard frame.

The question comes to us from many parts of the country, requesting us to give our experience and observation with regard to such a frame.

Experience and observation has taught us that from necessity there must, and will be two kinds of frames used by the bee-keepers of our country experience has taught us that bees winter better in deep frames, in a cold climate, than they will in shallow ones. This question needs no argument, as has been proven, while bees winter equally as well in a shallow frame in the South. Consequently we have adapted for a standard frame one, 10 by 15 inches inside measure, and eight frames to the hive. We find a shallow frame has the preference in several respects. First, they can be raised up with less trouble and fear of injuring the bees. Second the bees are less liable to make crooked combs. Third, they give a greater capacity for surplus honey. These are some of the main reasons why we adopt a frame 10 by 15.

### THE BEE CONVENTION.

The Association met at Talladega, Ala., on the 4th inst in pursuant to time and place agreed upon at last annual convention. W. S. Terry, Vice President called the convention to order, but owing to the high water which cut off most all rail road communication, but few delegates could reach there in time to meet with the convention. Those present thoughts it advisable to adjourn without doing any business until the 2d Wednesday in May (the 12th day) and done so.

Delegates and bee-keepers generally will please take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. It is to be hoped that all Bee-Keepers that can, will be there, as the objects of the association is to diffuse light and knowledge upon the important subject of



Bee culture in the South. Arrangements will be made with the Rail Road to pass parties attending the convention for one fare at least efforts will be made to get them to do so.

THOS. J. PERRY, Sec.

Rome, Ga., March 15th, 1875.

RECEIVED.—Charter of Incorporation of the Wilkinson (Miss.) county Agricultural and Immigration Aid Society. The object of this society is to establish a better system of farming, and to encourage immigration. Address at Woodville, Miss., for a copy.

Owing to the recent freshets, the publication of the BEE WORLD was delayed. Those living off from the line of rivers subject to overflow, can have no conception of the extent of the damage caused by such events.

#### A NEW PREMIUM!

We have made arrangements which will enable us to give each subscriber to the BEE WORLD, who remits \$2,25 (the 25 cents to cover cost of mailing and so forth) one dozen packages of Landreth's assorted garden seeds. Remember we give seeds to the value of \$1,00, and the BEE WORLD (worth \$2,00) for the sum of \$2,25.

QUEENS.—We will send the WORLD one year, and a warranted tested queen for \$5,00. This offer cannot be continued long. The queen orders must be sent in promptly to secure them.

The call for specimen copies has been so great, that, from this date we will not agree to send any of the numbers preceding the March issue to subscribers.

We are offering the WORLD, with "American Bee Journal," at \$3,00 per year, postage paid. Two good journals for hardly the price of one.

The WORLD employs no traveling agents, or canvassers, but depends

solely on local club agents and friends to maintain its circulation.

Among our agricultural exchanges we give preference to the Journal of Agriculture, published at St. Louis, Mo., A careful perusal of the March number, will amply repay any farmer.

Be sure and sign your name and address. We are constantly in receipt of letters without the address of the sender attached.

Who has an Atkinson Honey Extractor for sale? A party has written us enquiring for one. Manufacturers should advertise.

Tell your neighbor that we will give twelve packages of Landreth's garden seeds, assorted, to every subscriber who remits \$2,25.

We offer the WORLD, with "Gleanings in Bee Culture," one year, for \$2,25.

#### Our Club List.

We will send either of the following periodicals with the WORLD one year, including Chromo, on receipt of price annexed:

Louisville Courier-Journal.....	\$3.00
American Agriculturist (and chromo, unmounted 10c. extra, mounted 25c.).....	2.75
Harper's Magazine, Bazaar or Weekly.....	5.00
New York Weekly Tribune.....	3.25
"    Semi-Weekly Tribune..	4.25
Rome Weekly Commercial.....	3.50
Illustrated Journal of Agriculture	2.75
Peter's Musical Monthly.....	3.75
Peterson's Ladies' National Magazine.....	3.15
New York Sun, Weekly.....	2.75
"    "    Semi-Weekly....	3.75
Fruit Recorder and Cottage Gardener.....	2.35
Gleanings in Bee-Culture.....	2.25
Phrenological Journal.....	3.75

These publications are all good. If any periodical is desired that is not on the list we can get it.



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1 Page	16 0	30 00	40 00	70 00	125 00
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For the past seven years we have been importing bees from Italy with more or less success. But during the past summer we have succeeded better than ever before. We received over one hundred live queens from the best district of Italy, the past season. We claim to be the only regular Importers of Italian Bees in America.

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I hereby certify that Messrs. Ch. Dadant & Son, of this place, are constantly receiving large numbers of Italian bees from Europe, through this office. They have received seven invoices since June last. These bees are nicely packed, and always seem very lively.

E. S. DARLING, U. S. Express Agt.

Hamilton, Ill., Oct. 1st, 1874. jan no 2

Kind reader, if you are in any way interested in **BEE OR HONEY,**

we will with pleasure send you a sample copy of our Monthly "GLENNINGS IN BEE CULTURE" Simply write your address plainly on a postal card and address **A. I. ROOT & CO., Medina, Ohio.**