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MOON'S BEE WORLD,

— A GUIDE TO —

BEE-KEEPERS.

VOLUME 2.

APRIL, 1875.

NUMBER 5

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ORIGIN OF THE HONEY BEE.

BY *

In answer to the enquiries of Mr. Geo. Muse, as to "whether there are two kinds of native bees, and if the honey bee is a native of this country; and whether they are, or not, of southern origin," I give you a few extracts and the opinions of a limited number of authorities, such as I have at command.

The honey bee (*Apis Melificia*) is not a native of the North American continent, nor are they of Europe. It is thought they are of Asiatic origin, the supposed cradle of the human race. Upon the discovery of America by Columbus, and subsequent explorations, many animals and plants were found, not known to Europe. With one or two exceptions, all of our present domestic animals came from the

Old World. Upon Columbus' second voyage to America (Jamaica), in 1493, were brought the first horned cattle.

In the early part of the 17th century, the English, French and Dutch settlers in the United States, brought with them each, implements of husbandry, such as they were accustomed to in Europe, together with cattle, horses, sheep and domestic fowls. From a period between the years 1808 and 1840, bees were imported—the first probably from England.

As before stated, they are not indigenous to England; and Mr. Wighton, in his bee book, says he does not know when they were introduced into that country, and adds: "That the honey bee was originally a native of some warm climate, I have no doubt.

* * * They will fix their abode in spots where there is little or no shelter from the weather, and make no attempt to leave it before winter. This demonstrates their instinct to be the same as when adapted to the warmth of their original climate."

The cultivation of the common honey bee in the warmer countries of Europe, being an object of the utmost importance to the farmer, every means that ingenuity could devise to improve the breed and management of these profitable creatures have been adopted, and with success. They distinguish three kinds or varieties of the common bee (*apis melificia*). The first is large, and of a deep, brown color; the second is smaller, and blackish; and those of the third sort are much smaller than either, and of a fine, glossy yellow, color.

Apis melificia is an European insect. Mr. Hunter supposes it to be an inhabitant of Asia, and Africa also; its appearance in America may be accounted for on the supposition that it was originally introduced there from Europe; and in the course of time has become habituated to that climate. It is said to have been originally peculiar to the continent of Europe; but this will admit of doubt. In those parts of Asia and Africa, nearest to the south of Europe, they cultivate the same kind as ourselves."—Rees' Ency.

Mr. Purchas, who wrote a work in 1657, entitled "A Theatre of Political Flying Insects," mentions bees in various countries, but probably on account of there being no authors on the subject at that time in the U. S., he says nothing of there being bees here. He says, quoting from Godginus: "Is there more honey than in Aethiopia? the cause whereof is the plenty of flowers there."

"In Brazil, more than a dozen new swarms issue from a single hive in one season."—Dr. Blumenan.

Dr. Livingstone frequently speaks of the great number of wild bees in Africa, and the amount of honey and

wax obtained. And Mr. Park, in his travels, says: "The continent of Africa, in all its widely extended regions, seems well stocked with bees; particularly toward the sea-coast. In lower Egypt their cultivation forms the employment of many of the poorer classes during a great part of the year."

Burchell, in his *Travels in Africa*, says: "Their manner of swarming appeared to us to differ in nothing from that of the common English bee."

In an article on the productions of the Ionian islands and Italy, in *Pat. Off. Rep. for 1859*, Mr. Parsays says: "Bees are kept in great quantities in the south-eastern districts. Some farmers have from 2000 to 3000 large hives; these are carried, by night, up into the mountains in summer; and in winter brought to the plains, in both which regions the bees find abundant flowers. Two or three crops of honey and wax are obtained in the course of the year."

"Bees were imported in tropical Cuba in the year 1763, by emigrants from Florida. Fourteen years after (1777), 715,000 lbs of wax were imported from Havana; and in 1803, Cuba imported more than 1,900 tons of wax."—*Am. Ency.* We are not surprised at these figures when we learn from Mr. Montello, that the hives in the island of Cuba throw their swarms during the whole of the year; and Don Ulloa says, that a swarm, and sometimes two, are cast every month.—Huish.

Does not this prolificness go to prove them natives of a warm climate?

In a communication in *Pat. Off. Rep.*, 1865, the author holds that "Bees are natives of warm climates, and their instincts are given them for their protection there." &c.

Rev. Mr. Cotton, author of "My Bee Book," imported bees to New Zealand in 1841; and Mr. Murray, in an essay, says: "The produce of the bees may be made useful to the inhabitants, themselves, but questions whether any importations can be made of wax or honey. It is too far to send the latter; and, in wax-gathering the domestic hives can never compete with the wild bee's nests of Africa. * * * Sierra Leone, Morocco, and other parts of Africa produce four times as much wax for our home consumption as all the rest of the world together."

As to there being two kinds, or varieties, of native bees in the United States, there are swarms in Tennessee of the native black, or brown, differing in appearance, but not so much as the late importations of Ligurians, or Italians.

An able divine, in speaking of the negro, says: "They are not hybrids, because they are as fertile as other varieties, and blend readily with them. * * *

The various races of men differ in some points of form and feature, but agree in all the essentials of humanity."

Prof. Adair, in an article in *Annals of Bee Culture*, 1869, says: "We speak of the common bee, the Italian bee, and the Egyptian bee, as distinct in their qualities and habits, without being aware of the fact that climate, and natural inclination to vary and sport, and perhaps the parentage, has produced in the United States distinct varieties of the common black bee, almost as different as the three varieties named. * * * In parts of Mississippi two varieties are recognized, one larger than the other, grayish in color, and not so much inclined to swarm. * * * In

other parts of the country I have seen variations as distinct, easily distinguishable by sight, and even more distinct in habits of productiveness, temper, and other characteristics."

Minor, in his manual, says: "There is a class of bees, denominated "black bees," that occasionally appear, and which have caused much speculation among apiarians—some even denying that such a class does exist. That such black bees do sometimes appear, is beyond all question, &c., &c."

We could multiply extracts by the hundred, on the questions asked; but can see no practical benefit to result to the bee-keeper of to-day. That bees can be made more profitable in the southern, than in the northern states of our Union, we have no doubt. We will give one more extract from *Cottage and Farm Bee-Keeper*: "We again see, in the districts of Illawarra, near Sydney (Australia), one hive to multiply itself to the number of 300 in the course of three years."

Murfreesboro, Tenn., March 1875.

LETTER FROM SOUTHERN INDIANA.

BY M. C. HESTER.

EDITOR OF WORLD: As I have failed for so long a time to put in my appearance as a contributor to the WORLD, I will, in this article, give a brief resume of my doings in the apiary for the last twelve months. Practical experience, after all, is of more value than mere theories.

I brought all my twenty-seven stocks safely through the winter of '73 and '74 without the loss of one. This success was exceedingly gratifying to me, after having lost so heavily the two or three previous winters. It

may be of some interest to the readers of the *WORLD* to know the circumstances attending this success. I wintered them in the same cellar where I had lost so many before. The only difference I know of in their respective conditions, was in their food. When they died they had nothing but their natural stores, gathered late in the season; last winter they had no natural stores, but were kept entirely on syrup, made from a good quality of coffee sugar. Another important fact in this connection, is this: from the last of October, when the syrup was fed to them, to the first of March, when they were set out on their summer stands, they did not consume over three pounds of syrup to the hive. Eight pounds of sugar, made into twelve pounds of syrup, were enough for them from the last of October to the latter part of April, when they began to gather honey from natural sources. Last spring was an unusually late one with us, for honey gathering purposes.

After I set my stocks out in the spring, their number was reduced to twenty-six by the loss of one of the queens. From this number I extracted, during four weeks in May and June, over thirteen hundred pounds of honey.

After the honey season closed, which was about the middle of June, I increased my number of stocks by artificial swarming, to fifty-five. From one hive I took fourteen gallons of honey, and cards and bees enough to make two full new stocks.

In my immediate neighborhood we usually have very little bee pasturage after the first of July. Sometimes our bees store a little surplus honey in September and October, but not often. Last season the drouth was so severe

that, by the first of September, my bees did not have one pound of honey to the hive. Something had to be done for them, and that without delay, else they were bound to perish. A neighbor apiarist and myself made arrangements to remove our bees to the flats just back of Louisville, Ky., where we found a large section of country covered with the golden rod. But while we were getting them ready to take to this place, we learned that there was an extensive tract of the same kind of land, covered with the same kind of flowers, about ten miles from our place, in our own county. We immediately piled about sixty of our hives into two barrel rack wagon beds, and hauled them to this locality. We set them out under the shade of an apple orchard, and turned the bees loose. It was interesting to see how soon they found the flowers, and how ravenously they went to work on them. In less than fifteen minutes after the first hive was opened, the bees were carrying in pollen. There were no other Italians in the neighborhood, so we could readily observe the working of our bees. In less than two hours after we let them out we went through a field near by, and found the flowers literally alive with the striped Italians. On one bunch of golden rod I counted at one time twenty-five of them.

We expected, from the way our bees began their operations on these flowers, that they would fill their hives with honey. But the dry weather continued so severe, that they barely made enough to winter on. For fear their winter supplies might be short, I gave them, after I brought them home, three pounds of sugar syrup to the hive. They are now, and have been since the middle of November,

snugly stored away in my fruit cellar. They seem to be doing as well as I could desire.

The honey gathered from the golden rod seems to be of a better quality than that secreted by the most of fall flowers in this section. It is thick and readily capped over by the bees. But this flower does not seem to secrete honey, except on low, wet land. I notice a considerable quantity of it in my own vicinity, but never saw a bee at work on it. The land here is high and dry, underlaid with limestone.

I have retired from the business of rearing queens for the market. My experience is that pure queens cannot be raised in my apiary for less than five dollars each. I would rather raise ten of the "dollar queens," untested and unwarranted, than one tested, pure Italian. Those that are satisfied with dollar queens are welcome to them.

Charlestown, Ind., Feb. 16, 1875.

—o—
REPLY TO MR. DAVIS—STANDARD FRAMES

BY H. NESBIT.

Mr. Davis says, it will be noticed that I make a little variation from my former frame (standard). Not so friend Davis; I said on page 308 vol 1, WORLD that I agreed with Mr. Dadant in a former No WORLD on size of standard frame 12x16 except thickness of top bar.

Which Mr. Dadant wants $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick and said I thought $\frac{3}{8}$ sufficient and stated I had used frames made of $\frac{3}{8}$ stuff 10x17 for a number of years and have none to spring and think it strong enough to support a comb even

two inches deeper. I make this statement lest some one may think I am selfish in wanting others to conform to the size I am using.

To use the standard frame I propose (12x16) I would have to cut off one inch at the end and add two inches to my present frame (10x17) which would be no little job to change the size of four or five hundred frames all with comb honey and in them, yet I can and will do it if the bee keeping fraternity say they want and will have a standard frame 12x16 inches and I think for this (Ky,) and more Southern States a frame 12x16 inches and 16 frames to the hive,—hive one story—is the thing to get the honey with least trouble of lifting and changing when extracting; and if we want to make surplus honey a sure paying thing we can't do without the extractor.

Cynthian Ky., March 1875.

—o—
THE NATIVE LAND OF THE ITALIAN BEE.

FOURTH ARTICLE.

BY CH. DADANT.

ANSWER TO DR. RUSH.

Never have I denied that there were Egyptian bees, imported in Italy. Marquis Balsamo Crivelli received, from Dr. Vogel of Berlin, two colonies of Egyptian bees. It was six or seven years ago. Mr. Crivelli was then president of the Central Bee-Keepers' Society of Italy. After his death, which occurred four years ago, these stocks of Egyptians were transferred in the garden of Count Gastano Barbo, where I saw them many times during my sojourn in Italy. They were no longer the original stocks, but their

offspring—two hybrid Egyptian colonies.

Marquis Crivelli and Count Barbo had both tried to raise Egyptian queens; but failed in their attempts. Out of forty-five queens, if I remember right, but two were fertilized by Italian drones. The balance were lost in their bridal trip, or proved drone-laying.

No Italian queens, as far as was known by Count Barbo, mated with the Egyptian drones. Count Barbo attributed this fact to the great disproportion of size—the Egyptian bees being smaller than the Italian.

These hybrid bees were a little smaller than the Italian, and somewhat whiter. They were exceedingly cross. It was impossible to open their hives without exciting their anger; smoke was inefficient to subdue them; and for weeks after a visit to their combs, it was impossible to go nearer than twenty or thirty steps without being stung by them.

Mr Gray of Cincinnati, had written me, while I was in Italy, to bring him two Egyptian colonies. To fulfil his desire I asked for pure Egyptian bees; but I was answered that these two stocks were the remnant of the only Egyptians, ever imported into Italy.

May be some Italian bee-keeper has received Egyptian bees since my return; but I doubt it, for the pure Egyptian bees are scarce—very scarce—in Europe, if any pure bees exist to-day; and a new importation in Italy would have been known through the bee journals.

The bees of some countries, outside of Egypt and Italy, were also tried in Europe. The Carniolian and the Carinthian bees are praised by some, while others contend that they are not

better than, if as good, as those of Italy. For years I tried to become well posted as to their merits, but, to this day, nothing is well defined as to their qualities. Had their superiority been proven beyond a doubt, I would have already imported some, for I am acquainted with some of those who have introduced them among bee-keepers of Europe—one of them having volunteered to send me some. I have refused them; these are the reasons of my refusal: These bees have but two yellow stripes; and they resemble very much the Italian hybrids. It would be very difficult to ascertain whether their offspring is pure, or only poor Italian hybrids. In consequence I have deferred getting them, until all the matings of my Italian queens are pure. I hope I will obtain this desirable result soon, being resolved to introduce imported queens in all my hives for the next winter.

To return to the subject. I contend that there are no impure bees in Italy. I call impure the bee that has only two yellow bands. I call pure all the bees which have three yellow bands, even when these bands are narrow, as it is sometimes the case in some districts of Italy. In the mountains the yellow bands are narrower than in the plains; and sometimes, when the bees are empty, they seem to have but two yellow rings, when, on careful examination the three yellow bands are easily detected.

I call pure all the queens, whatever be their shade, whose worker progeny shows the three bands. Never have I seen queens duplicating themselves every time and under all circumstances; although some have claimed to own such phoenix.

Mr. H. A. King having said, in the

N. A. B. Convention, that he saw impure bees in Italy, I wrote to him asking the name of the owner of those bees. In his answer to my second letter, Mr. King says that HE THINKS BEST TO MENTION NO NAME.

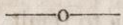
Since Mr. King has some reason to refuse to tell the name, I will mention it for him. It was at the apiary of Major Hruska, at Dolo. Major Hruska, the inventor of the melextractor, is not a queen breeder. He is an amateur bee-keeper. I was told, when I was in Italy, that he had brought two stocks of black bees into his apiary, to make experiments on. These were the parents of the impure bees Mr. King saw in Italy.

I will say also why Mr. King tho't best to mention no names. It is because I can answer him that he received eighteen stocks of bees from the same apiary where he saw these hybrid bees, and offered them for sale, as coming from the Hruska apiary, for thirty dollars apiece, and as UNQUESTIONABLY PURE. (See Bee-Keeper's Journal, 4th page, 4th volume).

In the American Bee Journal, I have offered Mr. King two hundred dollars for the name of an Italian apiary where there are impure bees, unless they were imported from outside of Italy.

I extend my offer to Dr. Rush, or to any other bee-keeper, who will accept it. As soon as the name would be known, we would write to the president of the Central Bee-Keeper's Society of Italy, to ascertain the fact. Of course the cost of this advertising would fall on the loser.

Hamilton, Ill., Feb. 20th, 1875.



Don't neglect to feed your bees. Do it at once.

NOTES FROM WEST TENNESSEE.

BY J. W. HOWELL.

As I am one of your subscribers, I take the privilege of dropping you a few lines on bee culture. Having commenced the business of apiculture with the movable comb hive a year ago, my experience, of course, is limited; but I can say that I have learned something; and for what I have learned I am indebted to Hamlin, Langstroth, and your excellent "Moonlight,"—the WORLD. One year ago I had seven hives, and now I have sixteen, all in good condition. They wintered well on their summer stands; and the most of them are now very strong colonies. I only saved two hundred pounds of box honey last year, as I gave a great deal of attention to increasing and Italianizing my bees.

Some of my stocks have some fine box honey on their hives now, which I use to strengthen weak colonies with, by changing them from the strong to the weak.

I have never used an extractor yet, but think I will get one to use this year. I have five Italian hives; I expect to raise queens this year to Italianize my stocks. I only raised a few last year, to try my hand, and succeeded in getting three hatched out—two Italians and one black. The black queen and one of the Italians became impregnated and are doing well. The progeny of the Italian is hybrids. The other queen I suppose was barren, as she never laid any eggs, although she was a fine looking queen; and seemingly well developed, and could fly briskly. There is but two Italian hives within fifteen miles of me that I know anything about; and those two belong to my father, seven miles from me.

So you see it is a hard matter for me to get my young queens purely fertilized. There are hundreds of hives of the black bee in this country, besides the woods are full. There are but few bee men in this country that use the movable comb frame. Some have been using the Buckeye hive, but have thrown them away and gone back to the old fashioned box hive and log gum; and some fancy that the old fashioned way is the best.

I am using the Langstroth movable comb hive, and never saw one that I liked better. I have been feeding my bees with unbolted flour, as a substitute for pollen.

I intend to transfer the balance of my bees this year, and would like to learn through the *World* as to the proper time; whether just before, or just after they swarm. During last June and July I took seventy-two pounds of fine box honey from one old fashioned box hive.

Kenton, Tenn., March 11 1875.

As you live in the same state with Mr. S. D. McLean, we refer your query as to transferring bees, to him. Perhaps he will answer through the *World*.

HOW THE BEES HAVE WINTERED.

BY M. MAHIN.

The winter has been unusually severe, and I am satisfied that there has been large destruction among the bees.

One of my neighbors has lost ten out of twenty, and another four out of six. I have heard of large losses in various parts of the country.

Last fall I had forty one colonies. Early in December, while the weather was yet mild, I discovered a dead

queen on the alighting board of one of my hives, and united the colony with another. They have done well. This reduced my colonies to forty.

Up to this time I have lost thirteen and the twenty-seven remaining are with one exception, in good condition.

I winter my bees on their summer stands. I have been experimenting for several years, and carefully noting all the facts under my observation, and I think I will yet be able to winter bees, without any loss, in the coldest winters.

Last winter I lost none, having wintered twenty colonies out of doors, all of which came through in good condition. This winter's experience has added to my stock of knowledge, and I will be better prepared hereafter to give my bees that kind of preparation and care which will insure their safety. The swarms I lost this winter starved to death. Some of them had consumed about all their honey; and others had an abundance, and to spare; but they had eaten all within their reach, and the cold was so intense, and so continuous, that they could not reach their stores. Winter passages through the combs would have saved them.

I have grave doubts whether there is any disease among the bees, other than that tracable directly to cold, and long confinement in damp hives.

At some future time I may give you my ideas of the conditions necessary to successful wintering in the northern states.

Newcastle, Ind., March 3, 1875.

As the postage rates on books has been increased, we are obliged to request patrons to remit 10 cents extra when ordering the *Apiary*, or bound volumes of *World*.

SCRAPS FROM ILLINOIS.

BY W. M. KELLOGG.

WINTERING BEES.

Yes, the same old story of us northern bee-keepers, wintering bees, for it is about the only bug-bear we are afraid of. If we had nothing to contend with but the enemies of the south—moths and robbers—we'd sail our hats sky high.

If friend Fletcher would try our way of wintering, I think he would have no trouble with bees flying out when they should not. We have a house—or box, as you please—about eight inches wider on each side, than the hive; long enough to hold all the hives, placed end to end in a row, with the same space at each end of the row; roof sloping from front to rear; the front on hinges at the bottom and center. We packed four strong stocks in this house, Dec. 21, 1874, wire cloth over entrance hole, quilts on frames and caps empty; space on sides, ends, top and underneath the hives—they being on legs—filled with clean, dry straw.

They were shut up thus till March 6, 1875, eleven weeks, when a warm, still day, appearing, we let down the front, scattered the straw from in front of the hives over the ground, and let them have a fly. And a jolly one they had, too. All flew very strong, clean and bright. There was but few dead bees, and the hives were dry.

At evening we turn up and fasten the first section of the front, repack the loose straw, fasten the upper door, and there they are, ready for another two month's "snooze," if need be. No trouble to carry out hives, or from bees dropping on the snow; for when outside bees are peeping out

on the glittering snow, these are turning over for another nap, not feeling the heat on the front of the hives, as friend Fletcher's did.

Our other three stocks we put into a Bidwell cold frame, Jan. 8, '75, they being our lightest stocks, though strong. Let them fly under the glass Jan. 22, and Feb. 21. All flew strong, voided freely, and went back to their own hives towards night, except a very few who staid on the glass—a small handful.

Mar. 24, have six strong stocks with brood in all stages, still shut up in winter quarters. One light stock, through my carelessness, got robbed while I was away; for I left the whole summer entrance open, while the seven stocks were flying in the open air.

A friend, who had seven stocks in the cold frame, lost one. But with others, the winter has been worse than that of '72 and '73. One man lost twenty out of twenty-four, and will lose more, I think; another lost all—four; another one, all he had, and a very strong one, out doors; another one out of two, and the box hive men out in the country report losses by the wholesale. I know of but twenty-five stocks left within a mile of here in any direction.

MOSQUITO HAWK.

Here is a good chance for a patent hive vender to get up a "hawk trap" to rid the south of one of its pests. Who will be the first to start the humbug going? for I am sure it will be started, sooner or later.

Am sorry that friend A— has such a pest to contend against. Friend Applewhite speaks of "smartweed." Do you mean heartsease—for many call that smartweed—or is it really the smartweed?

THE HONEY SEASON.

The honey season here is almost invariably in September. During the spring and summer the bees get enough to carry breeding well, and give a little surplus to the extractor; but the real business comes in the fall; and the bee-keeper who has strong stocks then may expect to see the fur fly.

CANDIED HONEY.

I agree with friend McLean in regard to liquid honey being pure. We have been using out of a large jarful of honey all winter, part of the time exposed to the light and warmth; but, with the exception of a few grains at the bottom of the jar, has remained thick, so that it was hard work to dip it; and clear as amber—tasting as good as it looks.

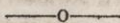
To call such honey impure, I think would be unjust.

We have some honey in bottles that is hard, looks like pomatum, and is as white as the paper I am writing on. It was gathered at different times of the year.

MARCH.

It makes us smile to think of doing anything at handling bees this month, with our nice little snow storms, strong north-east winds, and so forth. Good days to "bake shins" around the stove, and dream of fair weather.

Oneida, Ill., March 24, 1875.



BEE KEEPING IN 1875.

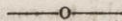
A writer in the *Journal Horticulture*, England, gives the following hints on bee keeping, adding his own experience on removing dead bees from the hive. If the writer's observations are correct, that the best honey

seasons follow the coldest winters, certainly the coming summer must be a productive one in this country.

"I have often observed that our best honey seasons, and they are of rare occurrence here, have followed our coldest winters. Therefore I augur hopefully for the summer before us.

It is a good thing when the weather is open, as at present, to clear away as many dead bees as can be got at within the hive without breaking away the hive from its board. This can frequently be done by inserting a piece of wire with a curve at one end, and hooking out the dead on the floor board.

The effluvium arising from a mass of corrupting bodies is often very great; and after a long period of cold weather, there is sure to be a considerable quantity of such dead bodies lying about the floor board inside. The bees ordinarily remove their dead themselves from day to day, when they can get out; but it helps much to assist them in this labor, besides adding to their health and comfort. Where wooden hives are used, no harm can accrue from breaking up the hive from its board in any case where these fit accurately. It is in the case of straw hives, which rarely sit evenly on the board, that it is perilous to remove these boards in winter. Sometimes I have known the dead accumulate so thickly about the entrances inside as to choke them up entirely, in which case, there being no exit for the bees, the hives perish inevitably. Let all bee keepers watch against eventualities like these, as well as against long-continued accumulations of snow outside on the entrance boards.



Bees can be wintered just as safely, and far more easily, than any other stock.—H. GOODLANDER.

RANDOM NOTES FROM
KENTUCKY.

BY R. M. ARGO.

FRIEND MOON:—The March number of *WORLD* is at hand. I am sorry for the delay, but it could by no means be helped this time, with such a winter as we never had before, and great floods to obstruct railway travel.

Being very busy at present, I have no subject on my mind to write about, so I suppose I will have to write this time at random.

Friend Davis says he would advise Argo to let Connoisseur alone. Certainly I will let him alone. I have not troubled him that I am aware of. I only wanted him to tell us the secret—if he has one—how to mate our queens pure, where thousands of black drones are; and how to test them for one dollar. If he will come out again I wont notice him, unless he requests it.

Next friend Fletcher comes out in a good article on wintering bees. I wish I had the leisure to make some remarks on this; I may at another time. At present I will say to friend Fletcher, don't get discouraged; try, try again. Did you ever read of my experience in finding the first black queen I ever hunted for? where I persevered twelve days, and found her just at dark on the last evening I ever intended to persevere? Had I failed that evening it is likely I may have given up bees in disgust at the very start.

I would here remark that my bees got a purifying flight once a month this past winter, and so they all came through in fine health and without the loss of a stand. Bees have all wintered first-rate in this neighborhood; but

to this day the winter hangs on and will not let go.

Friend Knight pitches into one writer for saying the worker bees live eight or nine months in winter, and only three in summer. I am the writer he refers to. I repeat the assertion; and if he has never been able to see the proof, it is because bees must exist differently in his latitude. I never make an assertion that I have not proven by experience. I have introduced Italian queens into black stands Sept. 1st, and took particular notice how long the last blacks remained. The last blacks were noticed May 11th, and when they swarmed on May 17th, I only noticed two blacks among the swarm. I also have introduced Italian queens into black stands numerous times in April, May, June and July, and in every instance, except those introduced in July, the last black bees disappeared in three months.

Last Sept. 15th, I sent off four queens from full stands, giving the stands queens from nuclei hives. Two of the stands killed the queens and refused to rear others; and so were queenless all winter, and are now; and each of them has more than a quart of bees yet, demonstrating the fact that bees that are queenless will live longer in winter than if they had a queen.

Friend McLean thinks Dadant is mistaken on candied honey. So do I, for my honey is not candied yet. Dadant will be answered at large before long. Miss Anna Saunders is bothered about a swarm of bees behaving so badly. I have gone through such experience, and I am sorry I have not time here to explain it.

Friend Nesbit is again in this number, but with an article that I entirely endorse. So I have nothing further to say.

Next is Uncle Harry Goodlander. I think we do not treat him right. His aim is to advance our interest, and we should assist him. I am going out in the country next week to try to purchase common bees, and if I succeed in getting any will send him a stand.

Next comes Kate R. Grayson. We are all well pleased with the appearance of ladies in the *World*, but unfortunately, she, like many others, masks her postoffice address so that if we wanted to assist her we do not know her address. She doesn't like the sting of a bee. I would advise her to get a Quinby smoker, sent by mail for \$1.75. I used to think it a useless article, preferring to use a piece of rotten wood, as I always do; but then the expense of breath to blow the smoke, and the scorching holes in your bee veil, besides the danger of fire renders one of them full worth the money. The holes burned through a bee veil blowing the smoke with the breath one season is as much as a smoker would cost.

Since I purchased one I can dispense with a veil, being able to send the smoke just where I want it.

To "bee" short I must close.
Lowell, Ky., March 25, 1875.

Mrs. Grayson's address is Nixburg, Coosa Co., Ala. Her article came properly signed, but we overlooked the address by mistake. Thanks for mentioning it. Had Mr. Dadant's article been intended for southern readers alone, it might not have been applicable; but our circulation north is by no means an insignificant one, and so the article was, we do not doubt, very highly prized by our readers in the north.

Uncle Harry certainly needs more encouragement than he has received

from us. A private letter from him states that he has accomplished a great deal towards securing safe wintering; but at a considerable pecuniary loss, as he neglected everything else while conducting his experiments.

MELLILOT CLOVER. HOW TO SOW IT.

BY S. D. BARBER.

FRIEND MOON:—I will give you my experience in cultivating sweet, or mellilot clover. I have only sown it in fence corners, and on waste land. I sow the seed in the spring after the frost is gone, and rake in the seed. I sow about one peck to the acre, and sow two years in succession, on same ground. In this climate—central Illinois—I find it does not bloom the first year, but the next spring it comes from the root and blooms from June till frost, which kills it; and then I cut and thresh it for seed. The roots die, and the second spring it comes from seed again. To have bloom every year I sow two years in succession, on same ground, and after it once gets start nothing will kill it out. It will take care of itself.

I find it an excellent honey plant. It grows here about two feet high from the seed; and about four feet from the root. I sow it in ditches, and on all waste ground. It fills the air with a pleasant perfume when in bloom. It needs no cultivating if given a good start the first season.

Mattoon Ill., March 1875.

Our southern bee-keepers who contemplate sowing this plant, should do so at once. They will not be disappointed in the returns, we think, for it has always proved valuable wherever tried heretofore.

A LITTLE ADVENTURE WITH MY BEES.

BY ANNA SAUNDERS.

Late one evening last May, I found, settled in a pear tree in our yard, the largest swarm of bees I have ever seen; it was so large that I made all the family come out to see it. In order to get at them conveniently I put a large table under them, and a small one on top of it, using a chair for the first step.

By dipping them from the limb with a gourd, I succeeded in getting all into the hive before dark, except a very few stragglers; but thinking her majesty, the queen, might be among them, I left the hive perched up there all night, to give them a chance to crawl in. As usual, a card of brood and eggs was within, to insure contentment.

Next morning I went, be-times, determined to be there before the earliest riser was on the wing. I found all inside, and seemingly asleep; so I proceeded immediately to business, and had my foot on the chair, descending, when somehow it, I and the bees all came to the ground together. The hive broke open, and, being on top of me, the whole half bushel of bees—more or less—poured over me. I had no protection on face, hands or wrists, and it did not take me long to get up. I thought I would be stung to death, but did not lose my presence of mind. I shook the bees from my clothes, but did not trouble those on my skin; ran and waked my sister, and got her to pour some water on me. If a similar accident should happen to any of you, I would recommend the water, but suggest that you try to get some one to apply it who wont quite drown you.

I returned to the charge as soon as I could change my clothes, without even waiting to have the stings extracted, except from my face, and succeeded in getting the bees hived again, and moved to the intended location in time to preside at breakfast, as usual. Indeed, I made so little fuss about it that I learned afterwards that a part of the family heard nothing of it. I attended to my usual duties, and would have gone to a reception that evening, could arrangements have been made.

There was not the slightest tell-tale mark on my face, hands or neck, and only a little swelling on my wrists; and a little soreness where they stung me on my head, the stings having been kept in there too long. And yet I must have received a hundred stings. I have on several occasions had a single one give me infinitely more pain. In this case I think my system had become somewhat accustomed to the poison; the bees were full of honey, perhaps, or not fully aroused, although I would have thought that jar would have aroused them if it had been mid-winter.

If I am at all anxious about a sting, I apply iodine, or wet cloths—sometimes both.

This has been the dreariest winter I remember—rainy, cloudy and cold almost all the time; so the flowers are waiting for better times, by and by. I do not think even the plum and wild peach are in bloom yet. I have not been at home for a week, but they tell me my bees are working industriously. I cannot imagine on what, except the wild violet and our winter garden flowers. By the 10th of this month, last

year, the woods and fields were full of blossoms.

Woodville Miss., Feb. 21 1872.

Many of our bee keepers of the sterner sex could profit by Miss Saunders' courage and perseverance. As to the backwardness of spring in Mississippi, it but reflects the statements of all our correspondents. But when the season does come, let us be ready, with strong stocks and plenty of room for the surplus.

—o—

QUEEN RAISING—QUERY TO ARGO.

—
BY H. NESBIT
—

Would it not be a more economical way to raise queens in small boxes 6x6x8 so that one of our Standard combs 12x16 would just cut to exactly fill four frames and one pint of bees, sufficient to care for them. I think it would be quite a saving in bees combs and honey; and I think raise just as good queens if the cells are thoroughly matured in full hives, besides the queens are more readily found and caught when you have a number to ship in a hurry.

To be sure the small boxes are more trouble, requiring more attention; but then if you make queen raising a business for sale, you have but little time to attend to any thing else.

Bees had a good fly Feb, 22nd first good fly since Dec, 27. On 23d Feb, we had snow, on 24th warm and bees carried in two gallons flour, all my stocks in good condition so far.

Cynthiana, Ky., March, 1873,

—o—

The material from which a hive is made has a great bearing on the health of its occupants.—H. GOODLANDER.

SKETCHES FROM TENNESSEE.

—
BY S. D. MCLEAN.
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MR. EDITOR:—When the "World" fails to make its "ample rounds," light is obstructed and bee-keepers grope their way as best they can, not even having a Moon-beam to glimmer in their pathway; and the lesser satellites, which receive the full splendor of the World, and faintly reflect back a few scattering rays, are thrown out of gear and confusion takes the place of order.

The BEE WORLD for March reached us late. We suggested some time since that your correspondents should send in their communications earlier. It seems that it did no good.

LONGEVITY OF BEES.

In reply to friend Knight's request that your readers report their observations respecting the age of bees, we would state that in our manipulations with bees we have observed that when an Italian queen is introduced to a black colony late in the season, the black bees will not entirely disappear until the following May. But when introduced early in the season the blacks will generally disappear in about eight weeks.

APIARY FOR APRIL.

The lapse of time brings new duties to perform in the apiary, and to realize the best results from the bees requires the continued care and oversight of the wide awake apiarian. He should imitate as far as possible their industry; giving them all the attention they require, and they will repay him many fold for all the attention bestowed.

During this month the moth miller begins her work of destruction by depositing her eggs in every nook and

corner available about the hives; and if combs are unprotected by the bees her progeny are not slow in appropriating them, and if allowed to continue would soon number their legions.

There has been many plans proposed for their destruction but the best is: destroy what you can conveniently, and keep strong stocks of Italian bees; and you need fear no danger from them.

Transferring from box to movable comb hives can be done with safety this month. Many plans have been suggested, but the following seems to be the most convenient for inexperienced hands. After having your knife, chisel and so forth, at hand, prepare yourself with a drum box for the bees—an old box hive answers the purpose well. Blow smoke in the hive you wish to transfer, until they surrender, which you will know by the loud and continued humming of the bees within. Invert your hive, place your drum box on top of it, rap the hive a few times, repeating it after a few moments, until the bees have quit the hive, and have taken possession of the drum box. Place the box where the hive stood that the few bees that failed to leave the hive, together with those that are out at work, may enter with the swarm.

Carry your hive to a convenient place where you will not be troubled with robbers; with your chisel pry off one side of your hive, having previously loosened the combs from that side with your knife. Remove a comb and lay it down on a soft mat, to prevent injury to the brood. Lay your frame on this comb, and with your knife cut the comb to fit the inside of the frame; place your combs in the frame the same side up that they occupied in the

old hive, if convenient. If more convenient, turn them half down, and all will work well.

The combs may be temporarily secured in the frames by small sticks placed across the combs on opposite sides of the frames, and tied or tacked at each end; by wrapping small wire or twine around the frames supporting them; by small wooden pins or thorns passing through the frames and a little way into the combs; by melted wax and resin, or by any other method that will hold them in the frames for a few days, when the bees will have permanently fastened them, after which the temporary support, if sticks, twine or wire, should be removed. Hive the bees as you would a new swarm.

Queen raising is in order for this month's operations, and may be kept up during the continuance of drones in the apiary.

Select your best queen to breed from—one of undoubted purity and prolificness. So soon as you have Italian drones capped remove the queen from another strong hive, and exchange its frames with the hive you wish to breed from, being careful to brush the bees all off from each set of frames in exchanging them. The queenless colony will then have the egg of the pure queen to raise queens from.

When queen cells are capped, form nuclei of two or three frames with brood, honey, and plenty of bees, and give each a capped cell. When the young queens come forth and commence depositing eggs, which will be generally when about eight or ten days old, remove and introduce them to strong colonies to test their purity and prolificness.

THE BEE AND THE CUCKOO.

BY JOHN G. SAXE.

A Bee, whose dainty ear had grown
Quite weary of the monotone
Which ever from the Cuckoo's throat,
Repeated one unvarying note,—
At last, besought the tiresome bird,
For mercy's sake, to change the word;
" 'Tis 'Cuckoo! Cuckoo!' all day long!
Pray, cease your egotistic song;
It makes me nervous—sooth to say,
And quite unfit to work or play!"
"You call my song monotonous?
Well—since you choose to make a fuss
About *my* singing—tell me why,
(Exclaimed the Cuckoo, in reply)
Your honey-cells you always frame
Alike—in size and shape the same?
If I'm monotonous—confess,
The fault you find is your's no less!"
"Nay!" said the Bee, "a thing of use
Has in its worth a fair excuse
For many a fault that else would be
A hateful thing to hear or see:
While arts designed to please the taste,
With varied beauties must be graced;
And, lacking these, they serve alone
To pain us—like your 'Cuckoo'-tone!"

CHEAP QUEENS.

BY H. ALLEY.

Mr. Editor:—I believe I was the first queen breeder to reduce the price of queen bees from \$10 and \$20 to \$2.50 each. I now consider the latter price full low enough for them, and no money can be made when they are sold much under those figures. I will say, however, that with my present facilities for raising queens, that the first cost is not as much as when I sold them at two dollars and a half each.

The price of a queen does not, or should not, affect their purity.

If a man is foolish enough to rear and sell queen bees at cost, I am willing he should do so, the more he raises and sells the poorer he must be.

I believe that I can rear queens as low as any man, but I can't get much

above their cost at \$1.50 each. I know that it requires considerable expense to raise good prolific queens: When parties offer them for one dollar each, without any guarantee of purity, prolificness or safe arrival, I think they feel as though they are not competent to raise queens that are worth more than they charge for them. I think that they are about my opinion in regard to experience, &c., and dare not warrant their queens.

Of course, they would not send out several hundred queens and not have any of them prove to be good ones: some of them, probably, would give good satisfaction.

What their object is in selling queens so low is more than I know, unless it is to monopolize the queen rearing business. That is something they won't do just now.

I received orders for over one thousand queens last season, at my price (\$1.50 each) and over 200 of them were sent into the county and State where these one dollar men reside, and only yesterday I received an order for one hundred and twenty-five queens, from a man who does not live over one quarter the distance from the dollar breeders than I do. I want to show that the dollar men are not the only breeders who receive orders for queens for on the contrary, they sell less than those who charge more for their queens. The dollar men claim that they breed from imported stock, &c.

Well, who don't? Old breeders have not only bred from imported stock all their days but they have years of experience that some of these dollar men have not had and I, as well as any old breeder knows that experience is as much a necessity as good stock, in order to be successful in

rearing good queens.

I wish it understood that I do not send out tested queens. I do not advertise to do it. Warranted queens are all that I advertise to send out. When they are not up to the guarantee, then I will replace them. I am forced to sell my queens at the low price I ask for them, as there are so many one dollar men in the business, for if I got \$10 each for them, I could not have better stock, nor take more pains in rearing and have them purely fertilized.

Wenham Mass., March 25th

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DOES FREEZING DESTROY THE EGGS OF THE BEE MOTH.

—

BY M. MAHIN.

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It is commonly assumed that combs exposed to freezing are thereby freed from the living germs of the bee moth; but I have evidence that this is a mistake. On the 15th of April last I melted a lot of scraps of comb and made them into bees-wax. They had stood all winter in a tin pan in the cap of an empty hive, out of doors. On examining them I found a number of half grown worms, alive, and apparently in a healthy condition. They had evidently hatched since the opening of spring. The temperature was at different times several degrees below zero and the cap of the hive was so ventilated as to afford but little protection from the cold. The eggs must have been in the combs all winter; for there had not been a time for moths to hatch in the hives containing bees, and to mature and lay eggs. And if there had been atime the hive containing the empty combs was so securely closed that it would have been impossible for

a moth to get into it. Wire cloth was tacked on the ventilating holes in the cap.

I made a memorandum of these facts at the time.

Newcastle Ind., March 3 1875.

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IMPORTED BEES.

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BY C. P. DADANT.

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"This is Dadant & Son grinding their ax," some of our brother beekeepers will say, upon reading the above title.

It is, indeed, gentlemen, but whose fault is it? Any one will certainly allow us the right of defending our business when attacks are made upon it. Moreover, if our ax-grinding injures no one, but proves beneficial, we should not be blamed for it.

In February number friend Sherendon asks why we should pay more for imported queens than for home-bred ones; and he attests that the home-bred ones are as good as the imported queens, or even better.

In all sorts of thorough-bred farm stock—horses, cows, hogs, and so forth—the mating of the animals is entirely under the supervision of man, and we know just what we breed. But with bees it is quite different. We cannot supervise the fertilization of the queen bee, so that however careful we be, our bees can have a slight tint of mongrel stock without our being able to detect it. This is a fact which is admitted and needs no discussion. Therefore it will not be until the stock in the country will be entirely changed that we will be able to boast of raising thoroughbred bees in America.

Indeed, according to some persons there are impure bees in Italy also.

Some who have never been there

say that they believe that there are impure bees in Italy, they can't say for sure. But those who have been there say that there are some, with the exception of King who has been found guilty of buying bees in the only apiary where he said he saw impure bees and of selling them as pure.

Now, gentlemen, if the Italian bees in Italy are not Italian, where are we to find Italian bees? Where did the first Italian bees come from? From Germany? England? France? Then why are they called Italian bees?

If the Italian bees in Italy are not Italian, why is it that the bee keepers of Germany, France, England, &c., all import bees from Italy?

Here, in America, many persons have tried the importation. Charles Dadant, after having tried for several years, finally went to Italy himself. He bought a large quantity of them and lost the most of them on the trip, thereby losing money. He tried it again the next year—'73—and lost money again.

Now, friend Sherendon, do you really believe that he would have tried so many times without being tired of his little success, if he had thought that he could raise just as good or better here?

The importation of '74 has at last proved a success. We rely on the future to prove, 1st, that the purest Italian bees are to be found in Italy, and not in America, or any other place. 2d, that the Italian bees bred in America will never be so prolific, nor so industrious, as those bred in their native country—all things being equal—for the following reason: That the Italian bee owes its qualities to the incomparable climate of Italy. Taken out of its home it cannot but degenerate. Of

course we can improve it, in a certain degree, by selection. But the Italian breeders, who are fast learning practical bee-culture, are working in the same way, and they will always have over us the advantage of a superior climate.

Hamilton, Ill., March 20, 1875.

THE SENSES OF BEES.

We find the following in Popular Science Monthly:—The senses of bees were the subject of investigation, and we will give, in brief, the results which Huber reached. The lenses of the bees' eyes are not adjustable; and, though they can see accurately to great distances, they seem blind to objects close by. Bees dart down to the door of their hives with a precision which is generally unerring; but if, from any cause, they miss the opening, they are obliged to rise in the air, in order to take another observation.

If bees hear—which is a doubtful question—they certainly hear only what affects their welfare. Their sense of taste is also far from perfect, foul ditch-water being often preferred by them to limpid streams, or even dew, and ill-smelling plants having quite as much attraction as sweet ones; it is the quantity, rather than the quality of their food, for which they care. They are also fond of the secretions of the aphides, the milch-cattle of the ants.

Their sense of smell is very keen; the presence of honey they detect even in the most carefully-concealed places. Honey bees often, in scarce seasons, attack the bumble-bees on their return from fields laden with honey, and force them to disgorge all they have collected. Its presence in the honey-bag must have been detected by the sense

of smell. The seat of this sense is in the mouth; this Huber determined by presenting to all parts of the body, on camel's hair pencils, odors especially repugnant to them. When held near the mouth the bee started back as if annoyed. On one occasion he mixed honey with camphor, which they especially dislike; they managed to separate and remove all the honey, leaving the camphor untouched.

The sense which seems to be most perfect in these little creatures is that of touch, and that seems to reside wholly in the antennæ. Greetings, caresses, and the communication of intentions, are always effected, by one bee toward another, by crossing their antennæ. It must be remembered that no light enters a hive under ordinary circumstances. "The bee" says Huber, "constructs its comb in darkness, it pours its honey into the magazines, feeds its young, judges of their age and necessities, recognizes its queen, all by aid of its antennæ, which are much less adapted for becoming acquainted with objects than our hands. Therefore, shall we not grant to this sense modifications and perfections unknown to the touch of man?"

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HONEY.

BY S. G. JENKINS.

The following essay was written to be delivered before the Georgia and Alabama Bee-Keeper's Convention at Talladega. The author has consented to have it published, as it was not read at the time owing to postponement:

It is universally admired; it is universally loved, with the fewest possi-

ble exceptions. Whether the bees, or the Great One makes it, is yet to be told. We know we find it in the hives so nicely and compactly stored that the art of man is incapable of complete imitation. Nice and beautiful beyond description, and with all so neat that the tenderest hands of our loved ones cannot make it more so. And so sweet that all the sweets combined cannot make it sweeter. It was anciently esteemed very highly. When the famine pressed old Israel so intensely, he told his sons at last to go down to Egypt and take with them the best of the land, take spices, and HONEY, make a present to the man and get corn lest we perish.

It afforded one of the strongest riddles uttered by young men in ancient days. Sampson says out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. Now meat is mentioned comparatively here. And it is yet to be proven that man cannot live on honey. John the Baptist, you know, lived on locusts and wild honey. It looks like there was more virtue and sweetness and nourishment—real nourishment—in honey than locusts, then why not be able to live on honey. It is mentioned in good old Job's day that there were brooks or streams of honey and butter. This was emblematical certainly, yet brooks or flowing streams were alluded to; give vent to your imagination a moment; there runs a stream or flowing brook of honey, and so neat and so sweet; I have a large dish of buisnit, let's go down near this stream. Juda a merchant 636 years after the creation traded in honey, oil and butter—and why may we not trade in honey.

Honey was always looked on as possessing peculiar qualities. I cannot

give the extent of its healthfulness. It has a most pleasant and healthful effect in colds and coughs. It is a most excellent medicine for affections of the kidneys; it encourages and promotes good blood; it prolongs old age, bodies of the dead have been embalmed and overwhelmed in it and preserved from putrefaction so says one writer.

The inhabitants of Corsica were long lived; they made daily use of honey; they drank it to cure mad dog or snake bites—our friend Langstroth quotes: "If bees, when dead were dried to powder, and given to either man or beast, it will give immediate ease in most excruciating pain, and removes stoppage in the body, when most other things fail. The inhabitants of Palestine mix honey with all their sauces. It is said by modern travelers to be plentiful in that country yet. It collects on the leaves of some trees and drops, and bees gather and deposit it. The Arabs even eat that with butter still. It will not keep but a few days; bees gather and purify it and it keeps. Children are there fed on milk and honey. The chief breakfast was honey, milk and butter. The poorer classes lived much on a mixture of honey and cream poured over their crumbs of bread.

In David's day when the people were hungry and thirsty and weary they brought milk and honey. Hence you see that this mixture was not only a refreshment, but an elegant refreshment, fit for children, a lady or a king. And we Apiarians would by no means object to a mess of it. Man's iniquity and frailty often throws strange impurities in his mixtures. But there are no impurities in the pure honey, and what is purer and sweeter than the honey and the honey combs.

It was an ancient article; it was and is highly esteemed; it was and is to high and low a precious article; it was and is very healthy. So let us then not rest until it is upon every ladie's table and at every meal. And we as Apiarians shall have accomplished a good work. One of which we shall not be ashamed.

WINTERING BEES.

BY CH. DADANT.

We have had a very hard winter here. Our bees have had but two days to go out of their hives between the 20th of December and 12th of March. The thermometer fell as low as sixteen degrees below zero, and for three weeks the highest grade was fourteen degrees above.

Yet our bees wintered splendidly. Out of more than two hundred stocks of Italian bees, but three have died, so far, and the remainder were never better at the same time of year.

One of the dead colonies was very poor. We had preserved in it some spare queens, and it had, in consequence, remained queenless for more than a month.

The second was a very good stock with an imported queen. The bees were found dead in one side of the hive, where they had no honey while in the other side there was at least fifteen pounds of sealed honey. Cold had prevented them from reaching the honey.

The third colony was near our house, very little protected against the north wind. It was a good stock, raised from a comb in an observatory hive. In order to give it more chance to go through the winter I had protected it

with straw, held in place with a few boards. My dog having found that the hive was a good protection, had accustomed to scratch the straw—sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other—and in spite of all my defense the hive was lost, from dysentery.

You see that here, with our hard winters, we can preserve our bees without cellars or houses. Strong colonies, good sealed honey, some protection against the cold, and a few cares, easily given, are all the requisites for so good a result.

Hamilton, Ill., March 17, 1875.

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KEEP BEES.

—
BY GEORGIA.
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Perhaps you will think that which I am about to write of but little value, or may be entirely worthless; however I will leave you to judge and abide accordingly. If it is worthy of publication, give it a place in the world where there is room for all. What I have to say is concerning the great amount of unprofitable stock kept by so many people throughout the whole country. I have in my mind a little circumstance which occurred some few years ago when we were living on our farm which was pleasantly situated on a sandy slope in one of the western States. It was not a large farm, but under good cultivation, and with proper care, kept as bountifully supplied with all the necessaries of life. Among the other things which we kept on the farm were two good cows, a fine lot of light brahma fowls of which we were very proud, (we being about the only ones who kept that kind of fowl for some distance around) added to these were

a few hives of bees. It was in the spring, about the time when every one was looking to the cultivation of their garden. I was one day looking through our bees to see how they had come through the winter, for we had had some pretty cold weather and I wished to see if any were dead or needed feeding or care of any kind, when I was interrupted by the voice of one of my neighbors exclaiming "well Mrs. A—— I see you are at your old post again. always fussing over those bees; but for my part I cannot see where you find anything interesting about it and I should think you would be afraid of getting stung to death." Why Mrs. B—— come out here and I will show you what there is interesting about them. Oh, no! she replied I never went near a bee-hive in my life, but what the bees put right after me, and I was sure to get stung before I could get away from them, besides I am in something of a hurry this morning, I came over to see about getting a few garden seeds of you. So I left my bees and mended my way to the house to procure the necessary seeds for Mrs B——. After having brought forth the seed box, (where I always kept all kinds of garden seeds) Mrs. B—— began to tell me of the amount of trouble she had already had with her garden. After having planted many of the seeds the second time the hens had scratched them all out, and they would therefore be obliged to plant them the third time. But said I why don't you stop up the fence so they can't get through. It is of no use she replied they will fly right over the top, "but ours dont fly over," I said. "Well, yours are a different kind." "Then why don't you get some of the different kind? Would it not be more

profitable to sell those you have and get some that would cause you less trouble." "Well" said she "I dont know but it would, but you see it is not the hens alone, the pigs also get in and have almost entirely ruined the whole thing." "The pigs?" I exclaimed "why in the world dont you shut them up?" "Because" she said "we have no corn to feed them, Mr. B—— was obliged to raise fifty dollars last fall to pay a note which was standing against him, and therefore in order to raise that amount sold himself short of corn." "Well" said I "that is just one third of the amount we realized from our bees last year." She looked at me with astonishment. "That" said I "is where the interesting part comes in, you see, The expense of keeping bees is but a trifle and if you get stung once in a while are you not amply repaid when you come in and sit down to the table with nice warm biscuit and a plate of delicious honey taken from one of the hives which has been carefully gathered and stored away under your own supervision?" Mrs. B—— returned to her home to talk the matter over with her husband and see if he did not think they could keep bees too for after after all she believed it would be easier to get money in that way, than to work in the hot sun cultivating corn. But really she added I do not believe I should ever dare go anywhere near them.

How many people there are in this world just like Mr. B—— and his worthy spouse! For want of a little courage and ambition to raise them up above the level of their own door sill where they can see the aim to which others aspire, and profit thereby, they plod on day after day and year after year making barely enough

to keep soul and body distantly acquainted and finally settling down into the grave before their days are half spent and with these words resounding over their remains before the cold earth scarcely hides them from view. "He was a poor manager, could not calculate right and everything he had is mortgaged for more than his worth." These and many like remarks follow. Oh why can we not turn the glass in some way that it will throw the reflection directly in front of the poor unfortunate people and make them see the brighter side of life. Let us try.

—o—

NOTES FROM MARYLAND.

BY D. A. PIKE.

FRIEND MOON:—I had promised to give you the profits per swarm of my Apiary in my next; but I can't give them quite correct now, as I have just shipped a lot of honey, and I don't know what I will realize for it; but my profits will be between twenty seven and thirty dollars per swarm.

I thought this knotty question concerning the purity of the Italian bee was settled long ago, but I see in the last BEE WORLD that they are stirring it up again. Now bee friends I dont believe any bee to be pure that dont support three distinct bands, I dont care whether they are gathering honey or not.

I will just ask you one question When does out pets show their markings the plainest? Is it not in the spring of the year? Now gentlemen if I am right, I dont think a good honey season has anything to do with marking of the bees. As for myself I have never seen any difference. If you have a pure queen I will guaran-

tee her to produce three banded workers all the time, whether the workers are gathering honey or not. I think our friend from Hamilton, Ill., has a poor way to test Italian bees. He says an easy way to find out if a worker bee has three rings, is to put it in a glass of water, the bee extends its abdomen and shows the rings in their full length. I have bees that you might have to put in water to make them show the black borderings but not the yellow bands.

I have queens for sale that I will guarantee to produce workers, from a bright lemon color to a dark tan color. All you have to say when ordering queens from me is whether you want light or dark colored bees, but I will guarantee them all to support three yellow bands.—Scientific American.

Smithsburg, Maryland March 2, 1875.

EXPERIMENT WITH HONEY.

The crystallization or candying of honey has received much study from apirians; and a remedy has been sought, with no successful results.

Light evidently has considerable influence upon this condition of honey, and placing the honey in a cool dark cellar for preservation has been many times recommended.

During the past autumn, I have experimented as follows: I put six 1 lb cans of beautiful linden honey, being careful to make it into one homogeneous mass by stirring. It was thrown from the combs by an extractor on July 20, and put into cans on August 1. The cans were placed respectively as follows: one in a dark dry cellar, one each under shades of red, yellow, green, and blue glass, and the sixth can in full light. On Novem-

ber 8, the honey in the cellar candied to a white. November 22 to December 10, honey under colored shades candied, first in the red, next in the yellow, green, and blue; while the honey in full light remained transparent until January, when it soon candied after exposure to intensely cold weather. From my experience an equal temperature would preserve certain kinds of honey, while other kinds would candy under almost any circumstances.

I think that candied honey, instead of being looked upon with disfavor, should be recognized as evidently pure. I hope, however, that the above experiments will lead others to follow up the light theory with beneficial results.

BEE FOOD.

To every pound of loaf or best moist sugar, add half a pint of water, boil for a few minutes, and when put out to cool, stir into each gallon of the syrup two tablespoonfuls of rum, and one teaspoonful of salt.

Be careful not to shed any portion of the liquid on the outside of the hive, or great confusion and fighting may be the consequence.

WHEN TO FEED.

In the spring of the year all light hives of bees must be fed with from four to six pounds each of the prepared food; the strongest hives may also be fed more moderately to advantage, as the queen will not begin to lay eggs until she finds some new stores are accumulating for the sustenance of the young bees; so that in feeding even the vigorous stocks you stimulate and excite them into greater

activity, thus raising the temperature of the hive, and when the queen feels this change, she, fearing all the cells may be filled, will commence laying eggs at an early period than she otherwise would have done, which will naturally conduce to early swarming, or to filling the top hives, etc. All your stock hives of bees that do not weigh sixteen pounds in the autumn at the North, or eight to ten at the South independent of the hive, must be fed up to that weight before you may consider them safe to pass the coming winter. All new swarms should be fed until the stock hive is filled with comb.

SUMMER FEEDING.

This sounds rather a strange term, or at all events a novel plan, in the management of bees, at a time when they are supposed to be able to get all they require in the fields; but nevertheless it is a plan I experimented on last summer with immense success.

On the 1st of June I took two swarms on the old plan; they were as nearly as possible of the same size, and on one of these I resolved to make a trial of summer feeding.

I fed these bees only at night, or on wet days, and in ten days, on inspecting the two hives, I found the fed one completely filled with comb, and the one left to its own resources had only three pieces of comb a part of the way down the hive. I then allowed both hives to remain quiet for a fortnight, when the fed hive showed symptoms of castings amaiden swarm; to prevent them doing so I placed a large cap on the top; the bees readily took to this, and began to build comb.

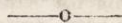
I then recommenced my night and wet-day feeding on the top of the cap

and fourteen days afterwards I took it off filled with twenty-one pounds of honeycomb, which was sold for \$9.50.

The bees consumed syrup to the value of \$1.75 only.

The flavor of the honeycomb was not to be distinguished from the other taken at the same time from unted hives.

The companion hive at this time had still a portion of it not filled with comb.—How to make bees pay.



ECHOES FROM TEXAS.

BY A. H. R. BRYANT.

DEAR EDITOR:—The BEE WORLD for March, came to hand, on "Easter Sunday;" filled as usual, with interesting articles from its able corps of contributors.

The typos make me say some funny things in "Echoes from Texas;" in reference to my "pet (honey) flower," "Scabiosa (mourning bride,)" to-wit: they make me spell it this, "Scabasco" "morning bride," and "marine bride," however no pain was done, "Reviewer" "Reviewed." I can't agree with our Reviewer, the doctor, in reference to friend Benton's "Stray Thoughts," in the January number. I think his contrast of bee-keepers, North and South, did "stray" a little wide of the mark. He says, "close scrutiny shows a few neglected "gums" propped up in some out of the way spot, near a few of the Southern planters, homes while; the same observation North, reveals full twice as many colonies, and a larger propotion of them in improved hives."

Now friend Benton you dont give us credit for "nary," improved hive," for a few neglected "gums" propped

up, "nary" improved hives. And I am very well satisfied that friend Frank has a good many of the old Doctors (T. B. H's) improved Langstroth hives. I admit that they are ahead of us in the science, and so is Germany ahead of them. Why? because the German began first, (a close study of the bee.)

I can't acknowledge that our Northern brethren have a better appreciation of honey and the Bee Journals than we have, in proof I will ask where did your star paper originate, to-wit: the "American Bee Journal" and where was its home the first five years of its existence, but in the South Add to this our own BEE WORLD, and how much are you ahead of us, and again does not the Northern Journals have a goodly number of subscribers in the South.

No Doctor we wont allow Brother Benton to charge us with a "lack of general information." As an evidence of this we only have to cite you to some of our Southern contributors, to-wit: A. F. Moon, (our editor,) Gen. Adair, Rev. W. K. Marshall, Murray, Nesbit, Argo, McLean, Hereford, Anna Saunders and Frank Benton, (whom I appreciate highly as an apiarian and writer,) and many others. But then some may say that some of the above are from the North, admitted. And we might say some of the North are from Germany, but then they are none the less Americans.

Now friends, for fear you should think I am extremely Southern I will state that I too am from the North, grew up in Indiana and Illinois, and yet I am an old Texan.

My bees are doing finely, sending forth lots of drones, I shall look for swarming to commence soon.

Kauffman, Kauffman county, Texas, April 2, 1875.

Notes and Queries.

E. D. Godfrey, Red Oak, Iowa, Feb. 24: My bees are wintering well; put them in my cellar, Nov. 18. Lost only one out of eighty stocks.

H. Alley, Wenham, Mass., writes, March 24: I got a copy of your Journal for February, and it was worth as much as any paper I ever have seen on bee culture.

D. W. Fletcher, Lansingville, N. Y., March 22: Bees are not wintering well in this locality. We are having very cold weather now; nearly ten inches of snow on the ground, and cold North-west winds.

Marcus D. DuBois, Newburg, N. Y. March 24: We are having a very hard winter indeed; as I write there is about one foot of snow on the ground. The Hudson river opposite this place, is safe for horses to cross on at this time. I have 22 stocks of bees, 20 of them in a good cellar. The two stands out doors had a good fly on Nov. 23d, and was not out of their hives again until Feb. 23d, just three months; then not again until March 12th. This extremely cold weather is going to destroy a large number of bees in the North. Last year I set them out March 19th—then it was warm, and snow all gone.

I. O. B. Dargan, Darlington, S. C., March 10: I am much pleased with the WORLD. We are much embarrassed with poverty and misrule in this section of S. C. Bee culture which has heretofore been much neglected, is now awakening considerable interest among our people. Movable comb hives will, before a great while, be in demand, as well as other improvements in bee culture. The honey resources of this, and adjoining counties is very remarkable. Bee-keeping might be made very profitable. The hives mostly in use are the box, inter-

persed with the American, Buckeye and Georgia. A few intelligent bee-keepers are anxious to procure a hive combining simplicity and durability; and cheapness, with the latest improvements.

E. M. Wise, Waxahatchie, Tex.: I have just received the March number of the BEE WORLD, I am very much pleased with it. The people in this part of the country do not take much interest in bee keeping; use the box hive without frames and let the bees take care of themselves (after hived,) the best they can. My bees are in box hives and are strong and healthy and some of them have drones flying at this time.

J. T. Douglass: Is high ground or a valley best to keep bees; and why?

A. A valley would be best, as a rule. High ground is too apt to be swept by winds; when gathering from low ground, they sometimes are too heavily laden to rise to their home on upland. Pasture is better for bees in valleys, than on uplands and water is more apt to be found there.

Jonathan Atkinson, Raisinville, Mich.: Do you know anything about the Egyptian bees? are they the same as are called the stingless bee, or bee of the Holy land? Very hard winter here on bees; have lost three out of six. A. The Egyptian bee is fairly described by Ch. Dadant, in present number.

R. R. Murphy, Fulton, Ill.: Any persons sending me registered letters on or about the 20th of March, and not hearing from me, will please write again, as our post-office was burned on the night of 25th of March with all its contents. The safe was blown open by burglars with such force as to tear a hole through the wall, and break out the windows; firing all loose papers all over the room.

N. Jay Wooster, Centreville, La.: Upon examination of my bees (no not my bees but wife's bees, for she is the bee man) we were most agreeably surprised to find sixteen out of eighteen in very good condition, for you will remember they were wintered on a stand six feet from the ground unprotected from wind and rain—I gave one colony to a friend and have fifteen left. Five hives had the surplus boxes on during the winter, two only having any comb in said boxes. I see no difference in condition of the colonies. My surplus boxes are just deep enough to take in frames six inches deep—length same as in brood chamber.

I have had so much trouble with glass boxes that I have done away with them.

My (that is our) bees are clustering around the entrance and under edge of bottom board and all have drones flying.

On the eleventh ult. I captured a swarm of bees supposed to be from my neighbor's hives. I captured the queen and united the bees with my weakest colony. My (wife's) bees are in such splendid condition that we are building great hopes upon using our No 1. Winder slinger to quite an advantage this season. The plum, peach, dewberry, and white clover are in bloom, the latter but little and the little workers are bringing in their stores from them. Now Sir, in my neighborhood there are many that keep bees, (that is who have made boxes and let the bee take care of himself) who think, that frame hives, honey extractors, &c, all moonshine. I have loaned them your Apiary, and World and done all the talking I could master, to no effect.

I will give you names of some of

those old fogies: the first is Wm. H. Cook, Sr. who says that the gum must be placed upon the ground with nothing but an inch board under it; second Wm. Hayse Sr. who laughs at the idea of there being a queen and noking bee; third, Saml. Cary, who has had no honey since Wooster transferred his bees to movable frame hives. Now we have some younger men who are just going into bees, who are anxious to commence on the new principle, and whose names I hope to furnish you soon. My wife's bees would have been better cared for had I remained at home during the winter. I give you the above, that your readers may see how little trouble is required to winter bees in Louisiana. I am now so situated that I can give wife more assistance, and will in future try to keep you posted with my successes and failures. With many wishes for the success of the BEE WORLD and its perserving editor, etc.

C. H. Chandler Greenville Ala: I am pleased with the Journal you sent me, I will try and get some subscribers here for it. My bees commenced swarming on the 23d, of March.

T. N. Hollett, Pennsville, Ohio, March 19: Bees have wintered splendidly; have not lost a colony; but winter still lingers; two inches of snow to day.

A good way to feed bees in the spring, after the severe cold weather has passed, is to lay an empty comb on the frames of the hive, and pour your syrup upon it. With a knife cut a hole through the comb and the bees will pass up through and get the syrup, without getting too far from the heat of the hive.

J. M. Hicks, Battle Ground, Ind., March 24th: Allow me to drop you a few lines again in this month, as I did so last year, giving you some of the particulars of the season and which you published, but now we

seem to be in a different atmosphere. In place of our bees gathering pollen the first of March as was the case in 1874, we now have a heavy snow near 20 inches deep, and the thermometer down to 15 degrees below zero. Oh! what changes! really enough to kill a well man in spirits if not in health. I sometimes almost wish myself down in Dixie along with you, provided I had my apiary along with me, but cannot think of leaving them behind. We have had one of the most severe winters here that we have had in 20 years, then do you wonder at our discouragements. Bees throughout Indiana, are over three fourths dead. Many died before the winter fairly set in, especially all the last years swarms. So much for natural swarming, which I do not allow, but practice artificial division and never run any risks of going off to the woods. My bees have in the main done well so far. But if a change does not come around soon in the atmosphere we certainly will lose largely, as well as those of the old fogies, who cling to their old box hives and believe they are the best hives in existence.

Well now friend Moon I do not know, how well you are getting along, but hope that all is right, and that the BEE WORLD is fast gaining favor, although I have not seen a copy of it since last May. I would ask you if you have J. S. Harbinson's latest edition for sale on bee culture, if so what is the price, and if you do not keep it, could you get it for me, and at what price. Please let me hear from you at once. I have some two or three persons in view who wish to take some bee journal, and I think I can get them to subscribe for the WORLD.

MOON'S BEE WORLD.

A. F. MOON & CO.,

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

APRIL, 1875.

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OUR readers must not forget the Ga. and Ala. Bee-Keepers Convention, which takes place at Talladega, May 12th. As the the high waters necessitated a postponement of the March session, let the attendance be a good one now, and the interest of the Association kept strong.

For a greater portion of the past six months we have employed our time in traveling in different parts of the South, thus necessarily neglecting a considerable amount of correspondence that has come in our absence. In this time we have helped put in operation several apiaries, and introduced

the WORLD among many, who had never before given improved bee culture a second thought. The demand for Italian bees and improved hives will in the future be great in the principle states south.

OUR readers have complained at the absence of answers to many of the questions of correspondents. We have found that answers by us to questions always shuts off further controversy; but when answered by correspondents other articles are brought out, and new ideas promulgated, which would not have found their way into our columns otherwise. For this reason we invite answers to questions rather than answer them ourselves.

From a private letter, we are informed that Melvin Parse of Pine Bluff Arkansas has ordered 600 comb frames—metal clamps, with hives and honey boxes, from a party in Ill. This looks like starting right. We expect to hear of great honey returns from friend Parse this fall.

OUR correspondent, Frank Benton, has accepted the position of Instructor in Apiculture at Knoxville, Tenn. He is certainly well qualified for the position. See change in his advertisement.

We have had several orders for queens the past two weeks, but the weather has been so cold that we could not ship them. Orders can be filled now, and hereafter safely we hope.

We intended to review, editorially, several articles in present number, but lack of space forbids.