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The White Mountain apiarist : the circle at home and the honey bee. February 1892

Groveton, N.H.: Aked D. Ellingwood, February 1892

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FEBRUARY,

1892.



PUBLISHED MONTHLY

AT

50 CENTS PER YEAR,

By A. D. Ellingwood,

Groveton, N. H.

THE BEE-KEEPERS' REVIEW

IS { Progressive and Practical;
Fearless and Truthful;
Unbiased and Independent;
Enterprising and Illustrate;

And filled with IDEAS from cover to cover. Send 10 cents for the black number and see if this is not a truthful advertisement; or, better still, send \$1.00 and receive the REVIEW one year.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Flint, Mich.

EARLY QUEENS FROM TEXAS.

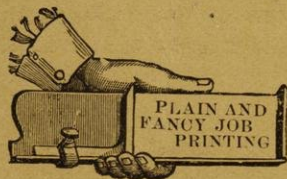
FROM my Choice 3 or 5-Banded Stock. My strain is built up from the most noted breed we have. My bees are good workers, very gentle, and beautiful. Orders booked now; money sent when Queens are wanted. Send for prices.

J. D. GLENN, Lisbon, Tex.

WORLD'S FAIR PICTURE OF ALL BUILDINGS.

Full information of everything connected with the Greatest Event of all time, also description of all States and Territories, account of all Government Lands to be had at \$1.25 per Acre, fine illustrations of various Industries and Interesting Scenery. A World of Information for only 25 cents a year. Sample Copy and 100-Page Catalogue containing 1,000 Clubbing Offers, 10 cts. The Guide and Hand-Book of Useful Information contains 1,000,000 Facts. Price 50 cents, with Paper 65 Cts.

THE WESTERN WORLD, Chicago, Ill.



A. D. Ellingwood, Groveton, N. H.

The "Little Beauty" A \$5.00 Scale for \$1.50



Price \$1.50 per lb. 100 lbs. \$15.00. 250 lbs. \$37.50. 500 lbs. \$75.00. 1,000 lbs. \$150.00.

SOLID GOLD

Around the queen centers our future success in apiculture. A poor queen, like a poor horse, will die on our hands when most needed. Color, in either case, is immaterial, being simply a matter of choice—my choice is the G. M. Doolittle strain of Italians, which is not only the prettiest, but is also far in advance of all other strains, imported Italians not excepted.

I am the owner of the best queens ever produced by Mr. Doolittle; and shall govern myself according to Nature's best way of rearing queens.

Listen to what Mr. Doolittle says: "During the past sixteen years, these bees have been bred with great pains regarding their honey gathering qualities, my average production of comb honey from each colony for that time having been about 80 lbs. each year, while single colonies have given us as high as 298 to 309 pounds."

My capacity is about 300 nuclei, while my rates are as follows: Virgin queen, 40 cts.; untested, \$1.00; tested, \$2.00; select tested, \$3.00; select tested, breeding queen, \$4.00.

Special Offer.

A select, tested, breeding queen will be given the one ordering the greatest number of queens during the month of Mar., Apr., May or June. Orders may be booked now, and the price sent when the queens are ready.

W. V. MOREHOUSE, Lafayette, Ind.

Something New!

The Best
Made, SECTION
Handiest, & Cheapest SUPER
In the Country.

ALSO THE BEST DOVETAILED HIVES, SECTION-BOXES, COMB FOUNDATION, ETC.

— SEND TO THE —

Largest Supply Factory in Massachusetts, for Free Price List that will interest all Bee-Keepers.

Address

DUDLEY BOX CO., or F. M. TAINTOR,
Manager, Greenfield, Mass.

Please mention this paper.

Exchanges.

Wanted to exchange advertising space in the APIARIST for supplies or bees.

A. D. Ellingwood,
Groveton, N. H.

FOR SALE OR XCHANGE. 15 Chau-tauqua hives with thick top bars and tin roofs two story, painted white, and as good as new, made by W. T. Falconer, Jamestown, N. Y. Will take a few colonies of black bees in box hives as part pay, also want a copy of *Mysteries of Bee-keeping Explained*. Quimby's first edition published.

F. H. Towne, Montpelier, Vt.

White Mountain Apiarist.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

AKED D. ELLINGWOOD,
AT FIFTY CENTS A YEAR.
GROVETON, N. H.

ADVERTISING RATES are 10 cents per line for one insertion; for two or more insertions the rates will be as follows: 1 inch, 75 cents; 2 inches, \$1.25; one half column, \$2.00; one column, \$3.50; one page, \$6.00.

Editorials.

Happy and content is a home with "The Rochester," a lamp with the light of the morning.
For catalogue, write Rochester Lamp Co New York.

We have been asked many times why we are defending the Black Bees. We answer to one and all; because with us they are a very valuable race of bees, proving much better for all purposes than the Italians. They have been slandered and maligned by everybody, and we don't like to hear our pets abused.

Owing to an immense rush of work and sickness we are late with the Feb. number of the *Apiarist*, but no numbers will be skipped. The March

number will be ready to mail almost as soon as the Feb. number; and the April number will be out on time.

This number of the *Apiarist* contains a large number of new advertisements. Look them over carefully and if you want supplies of any kind you cannot do better than to write to some of our advertisers. We want our advertisers and subscribers to get acquainted with each other, it will be to your mutual advantage.

Perhaps the outlook for a favorable honey season was never better than it is this spring. We hope for a large yield in the Eastern States.

One bee in March is worth ten bees in June; as it is the early bees that help to breed the large swarms. So make things convenient for your bees early in the season; supply them with water close at hand, and flour in place of the pollen which they cannot get yet.

Remember that comb costs the bees about ten pounds of honey, for every pound of comb. So, if your honey is worth 10 cents per pound, worker-comb or comb-foundation is worth to you \$1.00 per pound. This is why the business of foundation making has taken such great proportions. Every man who uses it doubles his investment.

During the past month we have been doing a large amount of printing for bee-keepers. If you have not already had your Envelopes, Letter Heads, Cards, Etc. printed it will pay you to write us for prices.

Dr. Miller in *Gleanings* suggests that the name, The North American Bee-Keepers' Association be shortened to North American Association using the abbreviation N. A. A., we don't

like this. It is not distinctive enough. list to supply dealers.

In early Spring, remove the drone-comb and replace it with worker-comb or comb-foundation, as much as is in your power. You will always leave more drone-comb than needed and every square foot of drone-comb replaced by worker-comb is equal to a dollar saved.

A FEW DAYS AGO we received the following letter worded exactly as below. No more, no less.

"WHITE MOUNTAIN APIARIST:—Send the APIARIST for six months. Find 15¢ enclosed."

The letter had no date, name of Town, County or State, and no name signed to it. It came from somewhere in N. Y., as we found by the post mark on the envelope. This is only one in many that we constantly receive, and it shows great carelessness on the part of the sender. Of course the people who send these letters wonder why they do not receive the APIARIST, and we presume they feel that we are swindling them, but we can do just nothing about it. We are ready to send the APIARIST to every subscriber who plainly writes his name and address. More we cannot do.

FOR A LONG TIME we have felt that there was greatly needed somewhere here in the United States, a wholesale supply house, where supply dealers who did not or would prefer not to manufacture their own supplies could obtain them at liveable prices. With the object in view of bringing this result about, we, about a year ago wrote to one of the leading manufacturing establishments suggesting to them that the supply dealers of the U. S. needed such an establishment. They wrote us rather a discouraging letter, at that time, but we notice that they publish, this spring, a special price

Now this is one step in the right direction, but we hope in the near future to see this same house come out as an independent wholesale house. Large manufacturing establishments like the W. T. Falconer or the A. I. Root can produce their goods at a much less cost than the small manufacturers who only produces on a small scale. Many of these manufacturers would prefer to buy their supplies could they do so, and the result to the consumer would be that they would get better goods more accurately made and at prices just as low as they now buy them. We would like in the near future to see the W. T. Falconer Mfg. Co., or some other large manufacturing concern equally well situated give up their retail business and devote their energies to wholesaling their goods to supply dealers and associations, we think the plan would be beneficial to the public at large, the supply dealers and the wholesale manufacturer himself.

News Column.

This column will in the future be devoted to news, gossip, etc. We especially invite all our friends to help make this one of the most interesting departments of the Apiarist.

MRS. F. A. DAYTON, of Bradford, Iowa, has been visiting her son C. W. Dayton, Clinton, Wisconsin, foreman of the Rock Co. Banner.

W. H. LAWS, Lavaca, Ark., is on hand again with his price list of Italian Queens. Mr. Laws rears some beautiful Queens.

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY, Flo. d, Texas, writes us that she has been enjoying? quite a spell of cold weather. We would like to invite her to N. H. we have enjoyed a very open winter here.

N. D. WEST, Middleburgh, N. Y., controls his swarms with a new spiral contrivance.

MR. & MRS. A. I. ROOT have returned from their trip to California.

DO YOU NOTICE the beautiful new type that we use for headlines in this number of the *Apiarist*?

E. W. PHILO, Halfmoon, N. Y., has a new automatic section former and gluer. You simply turn a crank, the machine does the rest.

COLEWICK & COLEWICK, of Norse, Texas, sends us a neat 12 page price list for 1892.

MR. FRANK S. BOWLBY, of Hackensack, N. J., writes: I had the first number of the *APIARIST* as a sample copy and thought it very good for a starter, but the Nov. copy before me leaves it so far behind that we would not know it was an edition of the same paper. I wish you success.

MR. L. W. FRANKS, of Betzer, Mich., writes that he had three colonies of Black Bees last year and five of Italians. The Blacks gave him 300 lbs. of comb honey, and the Italians only 200. Mr. Franks thinks a question department would be a good thing for the *APIARIST*.

WE ARE PRINTING a neat 16 page report of the last meeting of the Vermont Bee-Keepers' Association. It will contain the report of the meeting in full which is exceedingly interesting. Any body wishing a copy can obtain same by addressing H. W. Scott, Barre, Vermont.

WE HAVE RECEIVED catalogues from the following supply dealers:
Geo. H. Kirkpatrick, Union City, Ind.
John Conser, Sedalia, Mo.
Box Co., Greenfield, Mass.
Quigley, Unionville, Mo.

John Andrews, Pattens Mills, N. Y.
J. D. Goodrich, East Hardwick, Vt.
Mrs. Oliver Cole, Sherburne, N. Y.
W. D. Soper, Jackson, Mich.
J. Vandeusen & Son, Sprout Brook, N. Y.

Samuel Jones, Des Moines, Iowa.
J. F. Michael, German, Ohio.
Chas. Dadant & Son, Hamilton, Ill.
G. B. Lewis & Co., Watertown, Wis.
G. K. Hubbard, Fort Wayne, Ind.
J. M. Young, Plattsmouth, Neb.
M. H. DeWitt, Sunny Side, Md.
J. P. H. Brown, Augusta, Ga.
St. Joseph Apiary Co., St. Joseph, Mo.

W. S. VANDRUFF, of Waynesburg, Ia., formerly publisher of the *Bee World* sends us his price list of American Italian Bees and Queens. Mr. Vandruff breeds some beautiful Queens. We are sorry that Mr. V. was obliged to discontinue the *Bee World*; it was a bright little journal and was the best advertising medium we ever had; we got more returns from our ads. in the *Bee World* than from any other journal in which our ads. was inserted.

Randolph, Ill., Feb. 12th, 1882.

A. D. Ellingwood, Groveton, N. H.

Dear Sir:—I have received several copies of your journal and find it very interesting and instructive.

I am an amateur bee-keeper, but like the business very much. I have at present about fifteen colonies in good condition. Part of my stock died during the cold spell in January.

Dysentery has destroyed a great many of the bees of this locality caused, I think, by honey-dew and cold weather combined.

Enclosed find 15¢ for 6 months subscription to *WHITE MOUNTAIN APIARIST*, and oblige,

FRANK CRUIKSHANK.

Another Testimony in Favor of the Blacks.

BY MRS. H. A. FARNUM.

Gladly will I add my testimony to the many I have noticed lately in favor of the German or Black bees. I have thirty colonies of the regular black bees, and I wouldn't be willing to exchange them for the Italian or Carniolan or even for the wonderful *Punic bees* we hear so much about. Why? Because I have tried the blacks and know whereof I speak, last year my bees made more and a better quality of honey than any in this vicinity.

Many bee-keepers here are complaining of their bees starving; I have no such complaint to make; on the contrary my bees have plenty; enough to last till June. And they are not cross if they are used well, but if they are misused they know how to defend themselves. So I hold up both hands, and give three cheers for the German or Black workers, and warrant the best of success to all who keep and take care of the same.

Aristotle, N. Y.

Bees in Winter.

BY W. M. GERRISH.

Up to present date we have had warm pleasant weather, and the bees have been out several times flying as if it were summer time; this is very seldom seen in Eastern N. H. in midwinter, when the bees can fly and all will return safely that would winter. All that remain around the hives are old bees that would be found dead in spring; so if you see a few dead ones on the snow, don't let it alarm you; some are stopping their bees in for fear of losing some of them, which

I believe to be wrong, though there are certain times in winter when it is very important to shade your hives from the hot rays of the sun, when there is a large amount of light snow on the ground or even when it is chilly weather; but the pure air at the entrance is just as important for our bees as it is for domestic animal, and more so than for some creatures.

If they are well prepared on their summer stand let them remain without any disturbance whatever. Also, if in the cellar, the less they are jarred or moved the better; but by all means keep your cellar dark as possible; this is my belief.

I do not write this for publication, it is out of sympathy towards the Editor who has seen hard rubs in trying to publish this journal for us, and I feel it my duty to help him if possible.

You will hear from me again.

East Nottingham, N. H.

Black Bees.

BY C. A. MONTAGUE.

Editor *Apiarist*,

Dear Sir:—With your permission I will make a few remarks on the race question. I wish to criticize, in a friendly manner, the communication from W. Clark, in the January *Apiarist*; which seems to be unfair. He says "We had of Italians one fall twenty-five colonies, and no year that we had Italians did we get two hundred pounds of honey." This might be accounted for in several ways. In the first place he neglects to state the number of colonies spring count. Perhaps he allowed them to swarm too much. Possibly there were no good honey seasons during the five years he kept Italians. Or again, it is very possible he got hold of a po

strain of Italians; he makes no statement as to these points.

When his Italians died and the balance was struck, I am afraid he omitted to credit them with the hives and combs on hand; while he does seem to credit them to the blacks, which superseded them. This item of *combs* is a most important one.

I work for Ext. honey and can make twice as big a record with a sufficient supply of combs on hand. This may seem a strong statement; but it is a fact and an important one; so should be strongly put.

Mr. Clark congratulates himself upon obtaining so much honey from his blacks. I have had from one colony (and its progeny three swarms) about six hundred pounds of honey. It was all weighed but I can not give it exactly; as it was not kept separate except from the parent colony, which gave three hundred pounds. I have had four colonies give me eight swarms and one thousand two hundred pounds of honey. In both of these cases I had very few empty combs on hand. Do you wonder that I stand up and give in my testimony for the Italian bee? I have never kept any black bees and do not know how they would have compared.

I gather from Mr. Clark's article, that he did not keep Italians and blacks together for any length of time to compare them.

Archie, Mich.

Clipped from Various Sources.

If you have to feed, do not feed at the entrance, or out of doors, as it would teach bees to rob. Feed in the hive above the brood.

The honey harvest lasts but a few days or at best a few weeks, so you must be ready for it. Make hay while

the sun shines.

One pound of comb honey, neatly put up in a clean case, is worth as much as two pounds slovenly put up, and is a recommendation to the producer.

It pays to have an Extractor and use it, if you own but 4 hives of bees.

The queen mates but once, which happens on the wing. She does not again leave the hive except with a swarm.

Honey should not be extracted when first harvested, as it is watery, unripe, and will sour. Give the bees time to ripen it, and keep them at work with sufficient room.

The colonies that work freely on red clover should be used as breeders in preference to others, as the tongues of their bees are evidently longer.

When you open a hive of bees, if you see any robbers flying about, you may be sure that there is no honey in the fields, and you must avoid leaving the hives open, or exposing honey in their reach.

Be economical; keep an accurate book-account of loss and gain in the bee-yard; and if the bees don't pay a good investment on the amount invested, why *it is your fault*.

Bees do not *gather* wax. They *secrete* it somewhat in the manner that a porker secretes lard. They fill themselves with honey, and then form themselves into a cluster, when the wax scales protrude from the scales of their abdomen. They are then handed up to the comb-builders, who construct the beautiful six-sided cells.

Black Bees.

BY PROF. CHAS. L. STRICKLAND.

Brother Ellingwood. Seeing that the Black bee problem is "a-cracking," please allow your humble servant one stroke of the hammer.

The Black bee, I think, has taken American nectar for two hundred years; contrary to the ideas of some, who may suppose the Black bee is *apis mellifica*; not so, for America one time had no honey bees. The Black bee surely has a fine constitution, having existed in the fence-corner and tall weed system for two centuries. They are a thoroughbred race, producing themselves uniformly for ages.

At times a vast amount of argument has existed as to whether they or other strains were best, but the result is about the same as when one tries to convince a man that the party he belongs to is all wrong. But the living facts are, they have some good points, under favorable conditions will do very well; but for modern bee keeping, where the dollars and cents cut a figure, they will not fill the bill. Please allow me to enumerate some of their good points, then also tell where I think they fail. They are good comb builders, and cap their cells white, but I think the whiteness is partly caused by the honey not touching the cappings, for they only fill the cells five-sixths full; consequently their honey will not weigh as much to the square inch as that of other races. They are fair honey collectors when honey is plenty, but when scarce and far to fetch there are other strains far their superior. As bees to rustle and look out for themselves they are good. On the other hand, they fail to fill the requisites of the modern apiculture in this; the queens are not prolific, not breeding up in the spring early, they are harder to

stimulate to brood rearing by feeding them than other races are; again, they are nervous and excitable, as robbers they stand at the head of all bees. Their tendency to run to the corners and bottoms of frames while being handled is not a feature of any scientific use. Like the scrub cow and razor-back hog, they will have their admirers to the end of time; but the day of prominence for them has passed into partial obscurity, for their place has long been filled by races far their superior in any direction. Give us the steel gray Carniolan.

Peabody, Kansas.

Bee Culture.

BY THOMAS PATTON.

The past two or three years have been very poor ones for bee-keepers in this locality, as has been the same in many other parts of Ontario. The fore part of last season was very dry, consequently the bees got very little honey from white clover, which looked very promising at first but yielded very little nectar for want of rain. When bass-wood opened about the middle of July we extracted some, but the bees seemed backward in going into the sections, very little comb honey being the result.

It all depends on the weather and the condition of the atmosphere for a good honey crop. Bees do well here when everything is favorable as honey producing plants and trees are plentiful. In a good season there is a continuous honey flow from the first of May till the first of September.

Comparatively few farmers keep bees in this locality. They generally keep from one to a dozen colonies for honey for their own use and they are far behind the times in honey production and progressive bee culture.

Suggestions, Etc.

BY EDW. E. SMITH.

The 8 frame dovetailed hive is large enough for me, always giving better results than the 10 frame hive. I never could get my bees to do any good in a ten frame hive.

Watch your colonies and feed those short of stores until honey comes in; as now is the most danger of starvation and dwindle. Early bees are of most value, so build up your colonies by feeding, put water near them with a little salt in it, also place some rye flour or corn meal in small boxes at various places about the apiary, if they do not notice it, as is sometimes the case, put a few drops of honey on it and they will take to it readily.

You suggest that some bee-keeper start a boarding-house at Chicago for the accommodation of bee-keepers during the "World's Fair." That would be a fine thing indeed and they could then have things their own way.

It appears that the Rambler's experience in Chicago, as narrated in *Gleanings* of Feb. 1st, was not a very pleasant one, owing to the nocturnal visits of some six-legged creatures sometimes called bed-bugs; he also makes some unpleasant remarks about the Chicago river; and of having to pay a good price for what you don't eat. So let us have a boarding house where bee-men can board and lodge for a moderate price, and have it at a distance from that *Chicago river* so the perfume of it will not spoil their appetite. Yes—and by the way whoever takes up the enterprise of that inn keep your bedsteads well varnished and plenty of insect powder on hand to keep it free from those slumber destroying "cimex lectularins" as the Rambler calls them.

By the way, if any of the bee-keeping friends should go to Chicago *via* the Wabash, I would be very much pleased to have them call. I live a quarter of a mile from Carpenter, a small village about twenty five miles from St. Louis.

Carpenter, Ill.

Likes the Hill's Smoker.

Belvidere, N. Y.

Feb. 27th. 1892.

A. D. Ellingwood, Esq.,
Groveton, N. H.

Dear Sir:

In the columns of your interesting magazine, I read that H. C. Farnum has removed from Aristotle Bridge, which is about a mile from my home at Belvidere, so I have had a pleasant visit with him, the Apiarist being our introduction.

Mr. Farnum has chosen an excellent stand for a pushing young merchant, and an excellent location for an apiary. Our beautiful and fertile Genesee valley, with its rich river flats, is a paradise for bees.

Mr. Farnum will start in with about one hundred colonies and keep for sale a full stock of bee supplies. Bee keeping is on the increase, and it will be greatly to the advantage of the country at large as it spreads yet more, the occupation and interest it affords is health-giving and the honey produced *at home* is more of a feast to the epicure than that which can be purchased of a neighbor, or at the stores.

The Hill Smoker I received as a premium with the Apiarist, is an excellent acquisition.

Congratulating you on the success of your interesting and instructive magazine, I remain Yours truly,

Herbert Spring.

Easy Chair Papers.

W. M. Barnum.

No. 3.

I sometimes wonder, in glancing over the different bee journals, how many times the expression "experience cannot be bought" has been used. It is truly a familiar phrase, but one loaded-to-the-muzzle with truth. This is one of the good reasons why a beginner should read and study with care the different bee journals and text books. The despiser of "book larnin" disjoins his own nose; it is there that he can profit from the experience of the old veterans, and avoid the mistakes of 50 years before. My advice to J. I. C. is—read the bee journals.

Among the class of beginners in the *Apiarist* family, one signing himself "Artifice," says: "My first honey crop, 20 lbs. to the colony, promises well to be a failure; the honey has a white, transparent watery look, and water drains from and stands upon the comb in different places. What shall I do?" Upon reading the above the Easy Chair genius was forced to smile, as it reminded him of a similar episode in his early bee—killing career. Although our friend A. does not state it, it is evident that there are either one, or two causes for the above. Possibly he may have removed the honey from the hive too early to allow of proper ripening. Again he may have stored it in a cold, damp room; judging from it's extreme watery condition, I presume the latter to be the case. This is the mistake of many an older beekeeper than our friend Artifice, and accounts for much of the unripened watery honey, that is placed upon the market at almost any price, to it's permanent detriment.

The essentials in this case, are a

warm dry room, where artificial heat can be given when the thermometer drops below the freezing point. Upon warm days the windows and doors should be opened, to permit of a free circulation of air among the boxes.

In piling, place upon open platform, about one foot from the floor, sections, about one inch apart, and crossing each tier one above another. This method, in a warm, dry room (not a cellar), will effectually do away with "Artifice's" trouble.

There seems to be a good many advantages in the new bee escape. The Dibbern worked well with me last season, I wish to give it and the Porter further trial before giving definite opinion upon either, however. Getting the bees clear of the supers is always a slow, aggravating job, and anything that will effectually assist, will be a blessing undisguised.

Have you ever tried corn-cobs in the smoker, if well dried they do very well. Try them.

If your bees are in the cellar and are making a "big noise" on cold mornings, let 'em alone. It is a good indication. The less tinkering with bees in winter the better, but keep the dead bees clear of the entrance.

Our remarks in Nov. *Apiarist* concerning the late Punic bee excitement, were only too true. I spoke as an entirely uninterested person, endowed with the average amount of perceptive ability, and some common-sense. It often so happens that the long-range judgment of a "man up a tree" is of more practical value than that of the interested parties. The Punic bee sun was already setting when my "Rambling thought" paper led me to chronicle the only too evident fact. Personally, I should be only too glad to welcome a worthy race of bees; our present bee stock

is far from being what it should be. I am always a "leetle" afraid of the *breeders* judgment, however; it is quite apt to be a little *warped* from the straight line. I prefer to *profit* by the *experience* of some of my neighbors. Then, when I am sure I am right—I go ahead. These foregoing remarks constitute my unbaised opinion in regard to the "Punic" bee question; but they (the "remarks") don't suit Bro. Henry Alley, of the *American Apiculturist*, who is the leading breeder of the little black bees in America—and of course he wants all the *advertising* he can get. Well, the "coat fit", he put it on,—and proceeds to insinuate naughty things against us in his last paper. Here is what we said:

"The Punic bee 'fad' is fast fading away. The Italian is probably as near perfection, as a race, as any we shall ever get. Let us breed for longer tongues, earlier and later workers, good winterers and nonswarming bees, and who can foretell the result?"

And here is what he said:

"Want to know if it is. Call around at the API office and look on while the morning mail is being opened and you will have reason Bro. B. to change your opinion regarding the 'fad.' The indications are that the call for Punic, or the ebony bees the present year will exceed the supply. Every mail brings orders or notice from some beekeeper that he shall try the Punic the coming season. Those who do so are wise.

"The Punic possess all the points mentioned and so much desired by Bro. B. Brother Barnum should write about subjects on which he is posted and understands. His subject, 'Rambling thoughts' however, was quite appropriate to the remarks he made. The above quotation was one of those 'Rambling thoughts.' There are too many so-called beekeepers writing

articles under the same head as Bro. B. When a person has no subject to write about, the pen should rest. It is certain Bro. B. has no personal knowledge of the good or bad qualities of Punic bees. Purchase a Punic queen Bro. B., then tell the beekeeping public 'what you know about them.'

If Bro. Alley could have seen the deep and fathomless grin that spread itself over our beautiful phiz, when we perused the above—he would voluntarily have taken back every dirty word he flings at us. His school-boy attempt at hiding the true issue by calling bad names would be amusing, were it not pitiful—and only goes to show 'nother badly bitten queen-breeder. He fairly quakes in his shoes, at the first shadow of truth appearing upon his horizon, and "won't play any longer," if we don't all shut our faces, and keep our quills dry, until he has nicely feathered his aristocratic suburban nest;—and then he will join in with the "moaning mob" and proclaim them "another disappointment to the bee-keeping public."

Belmont. N. Y.

Talk About Bees.

Years ago, when our pastures "flowed with milk and honey," queer and superstitious notions were entertained concerning bees, by bee-keepers. I was once visiting a widow lady, about whose premises I saw signs of bees having been kept at some former time. I asked her if she kept bees. "No, not now. My husband used to keep bees and had real good luck, but since he died our bees have died, and we have had no luck at all. I was told after it was too late, if I had put crape on my hives, or draped them in mourning they would have been all right."

Now this idea was sincerely believed in, at that time, by many. I was conversing with an ancient beekeeper a while ago about bees, and he said he had good luck with bees when he used to let them out on shares, but he was so foolish as to sell a swarm, and by so doing lost his luck.

In 1847, while clerking in a store at Portland Corner, I witnessed what was to me a novel performance with swarming bees. In July, about midday, I heard familiar, discordant sounds, such as I used to help make when a member of a Calithempian Band, while serenading near midnight, a recently married couple. I closed the store door and proceeded to look for the cause of such music at that time of day. I found that it came from Uncle Zenas Briggs' back yard and garden. Then I found the air full of bees, and Uncle Zenas shaking vigorously an old fashioned string of sleigh bells—big ones—some one blowing a tin horn, and a boy beating an old tin pan.

"What is going on here?" I said to Uncle Zenas.

"Don't you see, sir; the air is full of bees? This is to confuse them so they won't go off, and will cause them to light near here. Don't you understand?"

I told him that it was an entirely new idea to me. Uncle Zenas was one of the lucky beekeepers. How changed, compared with beekeeping at the present time? The intelligent beekeeper of to-day conducts his apiary according to certain methods and rules that have been found adapted to the wants and necessities of the bee, by careful study of its nature and habits.

I began beekeeping with a colony of black bees in an old box hive, according to the old plan, less the superstition, and continued till I had 4

colonies. About this time I learned of improved hives and methods of caring for bees. Possessing a little of the progressive spirit of the times, I said to myself, what others can do I will try to do, so I procured a text book and studied beekeeping; then procured a frame hive, also a colony of Italian bees. Then I began the new way by making frame hives. The next thing was to transfer the 4 colonies from the box hives to the frame hives, which I did successfully. The next thing was to Italianize my black bees, which I did according to the book, for be it remembered, according to the bee literature of that day, no bees were of any account but the Italians. There was much speculation in Italian bees and queens, so it was for the interest of queen and bee raisers to keep the Italians at the front.

A BEE-KEEPER.

—Canton Telephone.

Report of The Vermont Bee-keepers' Association.

MIDDLEBURY, Jan. 27.—The 17th annual convention of the Vermont Beekeepers' association opened at the Addison House today with about 30 representative beekeepers present. The convention was called to order by President V. V. Blackmer, and after prayer by H. L. Leonard of Brandon, the president opened the convention by a short but pointed address, congratulating the beekeepers of Vermont on the successful season just passed and on the enthusiasm which brings so many from various parts of the State.

The committee on nominations consists of H. L. Leonard, W. G. Larrabee, H. J. Manchester, and on resolution, A. E. Manum, J. E. Crane, J. J. C.

The first discussion of the s

"New races of bees," was led by H. W. Scott of Barre, and remarks were made by O. J. Lowry of Jericho, J. E. Crane of Middlebury, A. E. Manum of Bristol, H. L. Leonard of Brandon, R. H. Holmes of Shoreham, W. G. Larrabee of Larrabee's Point, and President V. V. Blackmer of Orwell. The evidence brought forth seemed to be general purchase.

The report of the national association of beekeepers' convention was given by W. G. Larrabee. Next was read a letter from J. H. Larrabee of the Michigan Agricultural college, a former secretary, congratulating the association on the success of the past year.

A Non-Swarming Queen.

BY M—.

One very hot morning in swarming time I was at work in the kitchen, when someone came in and exclaimed: "What a row the bees are making!"

In a minute I was at the scene of the uproar. Now I suppose that the first thing that is thought of by the beekeeper whose queens have clipped wings, when such "rows" occur, is the safety of "her majesty." Let the workers go, if they will, but—where is the queen? I began to look for her. For quite a distance in front and at the sides of the hive, I searched. Then I examined the long blades of grass, for I once found a queen at the top of one of these. I could not see her. Was it possible she was on a neighboring hive? I looked carefully at those nearest, because I remembered that one of my queens crawled up the side of a hive near her own, and, noticing a little cluster of bees, I found her in the centre.

No, nothing of the kind was now visible. I searched again in the grass. I give up and confess to myself

that my good queen was lost? This was hard. Mechanically I opened the hive. Not that I expected to find her inside, but when I have searched in vain in every possible place for that which is lost, I invariably begin to hunt in the impossible places. There was my queen, moving demurely about, just as if nothing in the world had happened.

Did she leave the hive with the swarm and then return? From what I have read of swarming, and have learned by experience with bees, I judge that they never do that way.

Besides, if she had gone out with the others, and then concluded to go back, how could she have crawled over the deep ledge below the entrance of the hive, crippled as she was? To put the question squarely: If she got out, how did she get in? But I did not spend much time in studying the matter. My queen was safe, and I was very thankful. Two or three weeks later the same ominous sound came from that hive. Again I hastened to the spot and commenced my anxious search for the queen; but I was as unsuccessful as before. Should I look for her in the hive? How foolish to think I could be so fortunate a second time. But I *did* look, and readily found her with the few bees that remained when the others took their flight. I made up my mind that she was a dear, contented, sober-minded, home-loving body, that did not care to "go west," or east, or north, or south, but could pick up a good livelihood just where she was.

The bees were already coming back, so I returned to the house, took up the flat-irons which I had dropped in my haste and alarm, and went to work in the happy conviction that I had one non-swarming queen. Wouldn't it make any bee-keeper happy?

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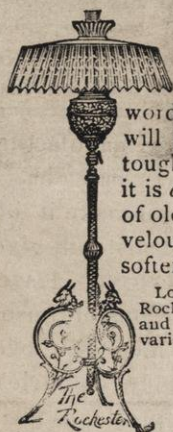
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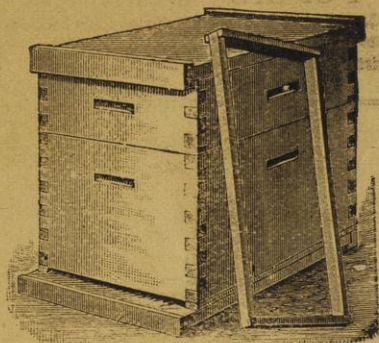


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