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THE NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE.

Vol. IV. INDIANAPOLIS, FEB. 1873.

No. 2.



THE MASON BEE.

We present our readers with a description of the most common species of the Mason Bee. There are several species, however, and their habits vary quite as much as their appearance. An Algerian species chooses snail shells for a nest, forming cells within them with a mixture

of earth and cow-dung. Another European species, represented in the engraving, selects the dried twigs of brambles, cleans out the pith and dirt, and constructs cells inside, one after the other, with a little mortar.

The work of this species is easy, when

compared with that of other species of *Osmia*.

In some parts of Europe, the peasant cottages were formerly covered with straw thatch, and nearly every straw was the home of a family of little bees, called *Chelostomes*. They were of the same genus, Mason bee, and so small that the inside of a straw was abundantly large for the construction of their cells.

Packard, in his "Guide to the study of insects," says that Curtis found two hundred and thirty cocoons of a British species, (*Osmia paretina*), placed on the underside of a flat stone, and that there were three successive broods of them for three successive years, so that they lived three years before arriving at maturity.

In describing another species, the largest, which he calls the "Wood-boring *Osmia*," the same author says: "We are indebted to a lady for specimens of the bees and their cells, which had been excavated in the interior of a maple tree, several inches from the bark. The tunnel was over three inches long, and about three-tenths of an inch in width. There were five jug shaped cells, each half an inch long, and made of a stout silken parchment-like substance. The bee cut its way out of the cells in March, and lived for a month afterwards on a diet of honey and water. It eagerly lapped up water supplied by its keeper, to whom it soon grew accustomed, and whom it seemed to recognize."

Italian Bees in Italy.

Since my father's return from Italy, we are constantly receiving letters inquiring about the purity of Italian bees in their own country. Permit me to answer these questions, and sum up my father's experience, in the columns of your journal.

The Italian bee is the only race of bees existing throughout Italy. As no black bees exists in all the Italian peninsula, there are no hybrids. It is very easy to prove this by examining a map

of the country. Italy is bordered on the South by the Mediterranean Sea. From the sea shore, near Nice, up to Switzerland, the Alps form an unseparable barrier between Italy and France. Thence these mountain ranges continue through the Southern portion of Switzerland, and then Southeast to Turkey, where they again terminate on the sea shore. The summits of the mountains being always covered with snow, there is an utter impossibility for the bees on the south side to mix with those of the north.

Another proof of the impossibility of this hybridization, is the fact that there are no hybrids to be found on the north and west sides of the Alps, in Switzerland and France.

Some persons say that the bees of Italy are nearly black, and that by becoming mixed with Egyptian bees, they formed what is now called the Italian race. But, let me ask, how did the Egyptian bees get to Italy? Unless they were imported on a large scale, through the Mediterranean sea, there was no possibility for them to get there. Egypt is in Africa, and even if we suppose that they could get to Asia Minor through the Isthmus of Suez and Palestine, they would be stopped on the confines of Europe, by the mountains of Caucasus. On the other hand, the idea of the importation of Egyptian bees to Italy, on a large scale, is not in accordance with what we know of the hybrids of these races, for these hybrids are generally very cross, and the mixture of black bees with Egyptian bees would not have produced a race as gentle as the Italian race.

We are, therefore, inclined to conclude that the Italian race is a distinct race, a race perfected by climateric influences.

Some will now say, if the Italian bee is a distinct race, is it uniform, and if not uniform, why not? We will endeavor to show it is not uniform, and why it is not so.

In the plains of Lombardy and Venetia they are all uniform in color, having on the abdomen three yellow rings, bor-

dered with very narrow black bands, so that the three yellow rings are always distinctly visible on all the bees. In the mountainous countries of Tessin, Piedmont, and Tyrol, the bees are not so bright and not so uniform, having broader black bands, so that the yellow rings are partly hidden when the bee is at rest, with an empty stomach. Farther in the mountains, some hives are found that contain a few bees that seem entirely black. They are also crosser than on the plains. Still they are not hybrids, for where could the black bees be found that caused this hybridization?

It is most probable that the climate of Italy was the primary cause of the qualities of the Italian race, and also of its color. In the plains, where oranges, figs, and olives, are grown in abundance, the beautiful sky and mild temperature could not fail to have an influence on the character and quality of our little pets. But the mountainous parts of Italy and southern Switzerland, having generally a rather cold temperature and a more changeable climate, could not produce bees as beautiful and as gentle as those of the plain. Still, the vicinity of the plains caused these bees to improve by crossing, so as to be a great deal better than those of northern countries. This theory, based on facts, will explain satisfactorily why many breeders were disappointed as to the beauty of imported Italian bees.

Now, kind reader, you will probably ask why it is that bees have always been imported from Tessin or Tyrol, when they could have as well been imported from more southerly places. I think that the cause of this will be found in the following facts:

The first persons that ever exported Italian bees were Germans. Italian bees were imported into Germany by Capt. Balenstein, in September, 1843. Then other Germans continued these importations. These men, as a matter of course, procured bees in that part of Italy where the German language can be understood. Several men undertook the business of

selling queens, and the sale of Italian bees, for exportation, was for a time settled in Tessin and Tyrol. And I do not believe these exporters were queen breeders, as we understand this term. They are generally professors, who have taken advantage of their acquaintance with foreign languages, to engage in the exportation of bees. Such are Dr. Blumhof, Prof. Mona, Prof. Chevalley. They are so far behind the times in bee culture that Prof. Mona lately wrote bee culture, with movable frames, would never become a paying or wide-spread industry. When they get orders in the spring, they send queens taken from their hives, allowing these hives to raise their own queens again. They have a few nuclei to raise queens in summer, but the greater part of their shipments are made in the fall, when they can buy young queens from country people at a small cost. These queens, taken from weak swarms, or old stocks that have swarmed, are all young.

The peasants destroy, with brimstone, all their old stocks, supposing that a stock that has swarmed once is of no value, on account of having old combs. They also kill the small swarms that would run risks during the winter.

Those who order queens in the spring are therefore certain of getting many old queens. This is why it is believed by many people, that imported queens live but two or three years. When Dr. Blumhof was in the bee business, my father used to pay him an extra price to secure young queens, and he always received long-lived queens.

The queens and the drones are not uniform in color in any part of the country. My father saw more than five hundred, and noticed that the greater number were of a leather color, rather dark. There are some queens as light as any that we have here, but they are not so good, nor so prolific as the darkest queens. In this the Italian bee keepers agree. Although the importation of Italian bees was partly a failure last year, my father intends to return to Italy

again this year, and he hopes to be supported by a great number of American breeders. Last year he visited Tessin, Piedmont and Lombardy. This year he intends to go directly to Milan, and thence visit the southern part of Italy, so as to see the bees of Tuscany, and procure the best that can be found.

C. P. DADANT.

Hamilton, Ill.

Queens and their Habits.

I notice that the majority of our bee keepers take the position, that there exists in the queen bee a mortal hatred for all other queens, and, although I have not had as much experience in bee culture as many others, I am led to believe the statement is, to some extent, erroneous. For some years past I have devoted a large share of my time to the study of the nature and habits of the honey bee, and I think that in the majority of cases the surplus queens, and queen cells, are destroyed by the worker bees, and not by the old queen; and I think that any one, who will take a little pains to look into the subject, can easily convince himself that my position is correct. Open a hive containing a strong colony of bees, and a prolific queen, remove the frame that the queen is on, and put another queen, either in the hive or on the frame, with the queen already there, and they will see, in an instant, that the workers will attack the strange queen without waiting for orders, but the rightful queen of the colony will pay no attention to the intruder; or insert a sealed queen cell in the comb, and the workers will destroy it immediately.

When raising young queens, I have frequently seen the workers destroy the unhatched cells in a few minutes after the first one is hatched. Last season I had a natural swarm issue, and the queen being unable to fly, the swarm returned to the old hive; I looked for the queen, but could not find her, and supposed she had crawled into the hive; this was

early in the morning. In the afternoon I thought I would divide the colony; I found six or eight sealed queen cells, but no queen. I searched the hive carefully three or four times, but could not find a queen. I then noticed a number of dead bees in front of a hive near by, and I at once thought that the missing queen must have entered that hive. I opened it, and found the queen belonging to the hive very busy depositing eggs, seeming to think that she was the only queen in existence. I also found a round ball of bees, about the size of a walnut, on the the bottom of the hive. I removed the ball and separated them, and in the center I found the missing queen; she had been so closely hugged that she was not larger than a worker. I divided the colony she came from, and put her with one half, and removed all queen cells from it; they received her kindly, but insisted on raising another queen, the old one making no objection, neither did she lay an egg for nearly two weeks, she then seemed quite prolific, but the bees kept trying to raise another queen for some time.

I have found two queens in one hive three times last summer. Once the brood from the young queen had been sealed over before I knew that there were two queens in the hive, in this case the old queen, a pure Italian, had ceased laying. I removed her to a new colony, and after some time she became a very prolific layer, putting from one to six eggs in a cell. The few, (the bees allowed to remain), hatched drones. Those in worker cells being very small. Some of the eggs deposited in drone comb, hatched fine looking drones. I kept this queen to raise drones after the blacks were gone, but they did not seem inclined to fly. After all other drones were gone, I raised a few young queens, but lost all but one. I am not certain that this one has met the drone, but if I succeed in wintering her, I shall probably have a drone-laying queen, or one fertilized by a drone, produced by a drone-laying queen.

In the fall I had a small colony of black bees that I supposed to be queenless, as I had failed to find any queen, or any evidence of their being one, after searching several times. I then united them with the colony containing the drone laying queen. After they had been together over a week I examined them, and found them hugging a black queen, and I have no doubt that both queens were in the hive all the time, and the bees had but just decided which queen to destroy.

In March, 1872, I transferred a colony of blacks, and when I had driven them into an empty hive, a colony of Italians, that had left their hive several times, commenced coming out again. I saw them when they started, and closed the entrance of the hive, hoping the queen had not escaped, as there had not a half pint of bees got out. I then went on transferring the comb from the box hive that I had commenced. When all was done, I took up the box of black bees and found a small knot of bees hugging a black queen. I caged her, and shook the bees in front of the hive prepared for them, and they went in with a fine Italian queen with them. At night I put the caged black queen in the hive of Italians that had attempted to leave the hive, they adopted her and stayed contentedly. By this change of queens the black colony became Italians, and the Italians became blacks. The "runaway" queen came out with the few bees that left the hive before I closed the entrance, and went to the hive I was transferring from. But why did the colony hug their own queen, and adopt the stranger? Why did both colonies stay contentedly after this change of queens?

DELOS WOOD.

North Madison, Ind.

Artificially Dividing Bees.

My plan of doing this, and the one I consider the best of any I have practiced, is as follows: In the first place, I proceed to form several nucleus hives, a

sufficient number to rear as many young queens as I intend to form new colonies. This should be done early in the season, so they can be reared in time for early swarming. As soon as one or more of the young queens commence depositing eggs, the dividing may begin, if the hives are full of bees, etc. Now, proceed by taking the empty hive, a swarming cloth, and a little smoke; puff a little smoke in at the entrance of the hive that is to be divided, two or three times in as many minutes. That will quiet the bees. Now, carefully, without jarring, take the hive from its stand, carry it a little out of the range of the bees, set it down bottom up, if it is a common box hive, place the forcing box on, drive the bees up into it, shake them out on the swarming cloth. As soon as the queen is discovered, they are ready to hive and place back on the old stand. Set the old hive in a new place, a little out of the range of the bees, and the work is done.

If the bees are in a moveable comb hive, remove the heavy board, replace the cover, and drive the bees and queen up, as in box hive, etc.

Some may ask why I do not open the hive and look over the combs, find the queen, and put her and the adhering bees in the new hive, and place on the old stand, etc., as some recommend. The reason is this, and I consider it a very important one: In the driving process the bees gorge themselves with honey, and are in the same condition in this respect as though they swarmed naturally, and with plenty of young bees for comb building. In the other case, we would have but few young, and mostly old bees that have past the stage of comb building to that of honey gathering. If the new hive was full of combs, it would be different, and answer very well. I have frequently made good colonies by simply removing a strong colony and placing a hive filled with combs in its stead. This should be done when a large number of bees are out foraging. About one hour after making

the new colony, give it a fertile queen by simply letting her run into the hive. Under such circumstances, they will readily receive a fertile queen. If the new hive is moveable comb, it would be well to give them a frame of brood from some other hive. This will keep the bees, if they have no queen. If a queen can be procured at any time within three days after making the new swarm, she may be given them. After that time they will be likely to have queen cells so far advanced that they may destroy the queen, and rear one from cells they have already commenced.

The objection to this mode of artificially dividing, is, that the colony has mostly old bees, and consequently become weak in number before any young bees are hatched. On the contrary, in the drumming process there are bees in all stages, from those just hatched up to old age, and comes as near to natural swarming as the division can be made. In this way we get one good or prime colony from each old one.

If it is desirable to increase colonies any faster than to double, each nucleus, as soon as the young fertile queens are taken from them, should each be supplied with another queen cell, nearly ready to hatch, which will give you more fertile queens in ten or twelve days. Now, the same operation can be gone through with as in the first place. Drum the queen and enough bees to form another swarm to occupy the stand, and the old hive placed on a new stand again, and a queen given. Now we have two swarms from one old one. And still the old, or mother hive, is in as good, if not better, condition than she would have been had she cast one natural swarm; for the reason that there was no cessation of eggs and maturing brood in the mother hive. A. BENEDICT.

Bennington, Ohio.

Do You Take a Bee Journal.

This is a question I have often asked people that said they kept bees. Well,

now for the answer. Some will say "No." Others will say "Yes, I have one that some one gave me last year at the fair"—or the year before perhaps. "Well, don't you want to subscribe for one of the bee journals, and get a standard work on bee culture?" "O no, I guess not. Bees have done no good for the past year or two, and I guess I will not keep them any longer." All right, faint hearted friend; there is only the better chance for those who will take some pains with their bees. They refuse to buy a book or take a journal, and then when the time comes for feeding in the fall, they come around and want to know how to feed their bees, or when, etc., and when to put them in winter quarters, and when to take them out. Well, we don't all agree about these things. But I think it would be better for those who keep bees to take a bee journal, and get some good work, and they can refer to them. And when they ask the bee man anything, they would be better prepared to understand him. Those bee keepers who have drones that lay the eggs, and all that class of bee keepers who never get a pound of surplus honey in their lives, unless the bees are first brimstoned, don't need a journal. You ask, why? The only reason I can give, is, they say so invariably. Well, let them alone. We sell our honey at from twenty-five to fifty cents a pound, and have our bees left for next year. They kill their's, and stop all prospect for any future increase, or honey, etc. Perhaps they will get, if their combs are not too old, from twelve to twenty cents for their honey; and if it is old, they can't sell it at any price. Such honey would not sell if you or I had to buy it. At least I can speak for myself. I think twenty-five to fifty cents is as much as I would be willing to pay for good honey. I am not now puffing patent hives, although I would recommend them to all.

Well, Messrs. Editors, the bees in this country will be very scarce next spring,

at least that is my opinion. Last season was the worst I ever knew for honey, and many have starved to death. There are very few bee journals taken here. They are asking me now, how can I feed my bees. If any of these bee keepers happen to read this, I advise them to send two dollars to Schofield, King & Co., Indianapolis, Ind., and they will often find articles that are worth more to them than the Journal will cost for one year. By subscribing for a bee journal, you get the experience of all, or at least a great many, of our most able apiarians, and it is right and just that we should give our influence to encourage the publication of bee journals.

My fever is no better—bee fever, I mean.

A. J. HOOVER,

Thorntown, Ind.

Economic Value of the Malva Tree.

The ultimate prosperity of California depends greatly upon her manufactures, and on being in a measure independent of the danger of a dry season, which makes feed for cattle rise to such exorbitant prices, that the entire profits of cattle-raising and dairy products are swallowed up for two or three years. To meet this danger, it may be well to call attention to a plant or tree which in all seasons can be made to take the place of pasture for cattle or sheep, and which, after the period of usefulness as feed has passed, can be converted by manufacture into various merchantable products.

We refer to an evergreen plant which, in reality, grows to the dimensions of quite a respectable tree, often reaching as high as thirty feet, and having a circumference of two or three feet at the ground. The Spaniards call it Malva. For several years past we have observed this plant, or tree, closely, intending to call attention to it as a means of subsisting cattle, as they devour its leaves with avidity, and with cows it seems to produce more and richer milk than clover or any other prepared food usually given. Cows, horses, and sheep all seem to have

the same fondness for it, and will at any time leave fresh grass or hay for it, and seem to take on flesh rapidly while subsisting on its leaves for any length of time. As fast as the leaves are eaten off, fresh ones take their places, and grow with astonishing celerity, thus keeping up a perpetual supply, summer and winter, whether the season be wet or dry.

Native Californians have many uses for the leaves and seeds of this tree, one of which is to make a decoction of the leaves for use in fevers, summer complaints, and dropsical swellings, and also poultices of the bruised leaves for painful and inflammatory wounds.

A neighbor informs us that he planted these trees, almost two feet apart, around the entire circumference of a two-acre lot, in January, at which time they were about two feet in height, and from May on through summer his two cows subsisted entirely upon the leaves, and gave a larger quantity of milk than ever before. In the meantime a hive of bees worked on the flowers, which bloom seven or eight months consecutively, only ceasing when the seeds form.

The average duration of these trees are seven or eight years, then they lose their vigor; the leaves fall, leaving the branches bare, except the long fringe of flowers and seeds, which resemble those of the field mallows, hanging the entire length of the limb. The seeds then fall and the next season spring up in numberless shoots which can be pulled up and transplanted without danger, as they are exceedingly hardy. No drought injures and no frost bites them, and they need no further care after being planted.

—Oakland News.

We copy the above without having full faith in the wonderful qualities of the Malva, but in the hope that some of our California friends, or exchanges, will give us more light on the subject. If it is as valuable as intimated, it is certainly worthy of attention and dissemination.

Subscribe for the National Bee Journal.

Scraps from Our German Exchanges.

LEATHER BAGS FOR THE EXPORTATION OF HONEY.

Paraguay exports her honey in leather bags, for which purpose a hide (generally roughly tanned by the people themselves) is cut into three pieces, and closely sewed up with raw strings of leather. As coopers are scarce in that country, and they have no suitable wood, and no iron for hoops, but, on the contrary, any amount of beetles that would bore thousands of holes into wood in a day, and thereby allow the honey to run out, the genius of man had to invent a plan to satisfy the demands. Furthermore, the transportation in the interior is almost entirely conducted on the backs of mules.

One evening, when out in the forest, one of our South American readers saw "tea makers" place the honey, which they had cut out of trees, into pieces of bamboo, filling it with honey, and then place them near the fire. In this way they separated, without any particular exertion, the wax from the honey.

He is of the opinion that the leather bottles, which are mentioned in the Bible, were these kind of leather bags (surongs).

CONSEQUENCES OF BEE STINGS.

In the village of Hundsangen, in Nassau, an old man was killed by bees, of which a paper of that place gives the following account: The oldest man in our community—he was 84 years of age—met with a most tragic death on the 19th of August. At about 10 o'clock, a. m., he was doing some work in the garden, when bees began to trouble him. The number of bees increased constantly, until at last most all the inhabitants of four hives, which stood in the neighborhood, took part in the assault, the old man, who was at the time bareheaded, was literally covered—head, face, neck, and hands. The cries of the horribly tortured old man soon summoned the assistance of the neighbors,

who, with covered hands and faces; commenced to scrape off piles of bees, but only to make room for others. Then they began to wash and pour water over the defenceless man, and in this way finally freed him from the enraged insects. He bled profusely, suffering the most terrible pain, and died the next morning at 6 o'clock. The body, especially on places that were naked, was swollen and entirely black.—The bees were in no way irritated.

The French journal, *Le National*, tells the following: In October, 1871, some of the young chickens of a mill owner, near Granville, came too near the bee hives, and the old hen, who instinctively anticipated danger, although the chickens and bees had heretofore lived together on the best of terms, tried hard to call her young ones from the dangerous neighborhood. But the young chickens kept on scratching. Ere long they were attacked, and the infuriated bees set upon them in swarms. The old hen wanted to come to the rescue of her children, but she also was soon covered with bees, and tried to find safety in the neighborhood of the watch dog, who was chained. In a few seconds he was literally covered with stings, because he attempted to shield the hen with his mouth. At this juncture the millers put in an appearance, and after considerable trouble were able to loosen the dog from his chain, but the poor fellow died before they were able to throw him into the stream. The hen and her young ones also died almost immediately. Some of the millers were likewise badly damaged.

On Various Subjects.

Perhaps I should have written sooner, but a natural timidity of appearing in the public journals as a scribblerian, has in part prevented me, together with the consciousness that I can not go in a "gallop," has had an uncontrollable influence. Again, slow plodding, financially, has kept me busy for though we raise

millions of bushels of corn here in Illinois, our cornstalks are so recreant that they will not grow us a drop of honey, nor a single jug of whisky, of which, however, I am really glad, for it is an article for which I have no use, and I think my bees are too well raised to dabble with the accursed thing.

But what of the times? you ask. Well, I like the BEE JOURNAL very well. I want it right along. I have some objection to the style of many of your contributors. There is so much of selfishness, or self-importance. One assumes a proposition and affirms its truth, however improbable or lacking of corroboration by the experience of others. All this I think wrong. Let us give our experience truthfully, and ask the experience of others, and by this means I think we will arrive at the truth, and gather information.

One contributor thinks there is no such thing as a moveable comb bee hive. If he will come to my house at any proper time for opening bees, if I do not convince him that he is wrong, and that I have them, I will give him any stand of bees in my apiary. I have used the moveable frame hive for three years, and have never found one yet that I can not take to pieces, do anything I please with it, and put it up again inside of twenty minutes.

But how are the bees doing? We have had three consecutive years of honey-drouth. Two years previous to the past were very dry, and flowers scarce. Last year there was abundant vegetation, but from some cause it yielded but little honey. Bees swarmed very well, generally, but gathered little surplus honey. Last winter I lost thirteen colonies, but no assignable cause, except two that perished for want of stores.

Notwithstanding the failures and discouragements of the past three years, apiculture is on the look-up. Men are beginning to conclude that the old plodding, stone in the mill-sack way of

keeping bees in a hollow log or nail keg, is not the most profitable, and are adopting more advanced ideas.

REV. R. V. REED.

Urbana, Ill.

On the Wing.

(Continued.)

In resuming my "Notes of Travel," for the JOURNAL, perhaps a word of explanation would not be out of place. We feel sorry that we could not send you the manuscript sooner, but, nevertheless, we shall only give such facts that will be of interest to your readers, at this late date.

In our last we left you at (or, rather, we were) at Mr. Furman's residence. As it was after dark when we arrived, we did not see very much that evening.

Passing the evening in pleasant conversation with our host, we retired for the night, to dream of "lands flowing with milk and honey." In the morning we took a stroll around the premises—the most pleasant place we found was the apiary. Several hundred hives were neatly arranged. All the hives were well made, of the best material, and put together in the most thorough manner, all neatly painted and numbered. Mr. Furman is quite a noted queen breeder. He has everything in order—all systematically arranged. His nucleus hives are made by placing division-boards in the hives. Among all the colonies we had the privilege of examining, we did not see one queen but what showed that it was bred from good and pure mothers. We saw one queen that Mr. Furman says one hundred dollars would not induce him to part with her. Whether it was the natural temperament of the Italian bees, or the kind and gentle treatment they received from the apiarian, I have never seen more gentle and quiet bees. But being a believer in short articles, we close for this time.

Yours, G. W. BARCLAY.

Apiary for February.

In some parts of the country bees commence rearing brood largely in February. In such sections, opportunity should be taken, every pleasant day, to set rye flour in sheltered situations for them; and any that have not abundant honey should be fed. We want strong colonies of bees to gather the first honey secreted; therefore let every bee-keeper calculate when that time usually comes for him, and arrange to have abundance of young bees ready to gather it. The fact has not been sufficiently realized, that those bees that live through the winter are only destined to preserve the queen's life until spring, and then they die. Many a colony, seemingly very strong when set out from winter quarters, is in a few days so reduced in numbers, as to be in great danger. The remedy for this state of things is, to have brood in all stages coming on, and to manage hives to secure this end, should be the business in February. If they have abundant stores, and *are wintered carefully*, they will be found to have much brood by the end of the month. If they have scanty stores, now is the time that feeding should commence. In the Northern and Western States, if bees have been housed or put in cellars, it sometimes happens that mild days come in the latter part of the month, when bees may be safely set out. We would advise that this be done, when possible, even although there is a certainty that cold weather will come again. Choose the night as the time to do this. We did not practice this formerly, but do now, with the best results. Less confusion occurs, and it works better than setting them out in a warm sunny day.

After they are out, close every aperture, except a small entrance, and keep in the heat of the colony. A bee quilt, laid over the frames, pays well. Mr. Hosmer's advice, that no more comb should be left in the hive than the bees

can well cover, seems to us wise. Be sure that there is honey in abundance, or if not, feed regularly, so that brood rearing may continue rapidly.

If no reliable weather for setting bees out comes in this month, keep their winter quarters quiet and cool, and patiently wait until March. While waiting, have your hives made, and your plans laid as to how you will manage your apiary in spring and summer. No business pays better for forethought and study than this, and June is too late in the year to do the work which should have been done in February. Do not many bee-keepers, however, leave it until then, and wonder they do not obtain good results?—*Mrs. Tupper in the Bee Journal and National Agriculturist.*

McFatrige's Report.

In the winter of 1869 I had 106 stands. Out of that number I had 55 stands in good condition. I added 5 of the best of these alive to them, and moved them (the 60) about twenty miles to a large poplar grove. In about four weeks I took from them, with the slinger, 2,150 pounds of honey. I then moved them forty miles to a linden grove, and in four weeks more I took from them 2,290 pounds of honey. I then moved them home. I had by this time—July 30—made the remainder of 106 stands into 48 nuclei. I then took brood comb enough from the 60 stands that had gathered this honey, to build up these nuclei into strong stocks, making 108 stands in good condition to go into winter quarters. They gathered about 1,000 pounds of honey from the leaves of trees in the last half of August. You may call it honey dew or what you please. Out of that 108 stands, on the 1st of May I had but 14 stands left, and they in poor condition.

I bought 21 stands black bees, mostly in poor condition. I done my best to increase my stock, which I got up to 108 stands again. But to do this I had to feed 1,400 pounds of honey, and 1,070

pounds of A coffee sugar. 500 pounds of this honey I took from the hives that had died the winter previous, which I had boiled and skimmed. My bees are dying rapidly. I think caused by the last 500 pounds of honey I fed them. I had 8 stands that I fed nothing but sugar. These 8 stands are now (Jan 22, 1873) in first rate condition

P. W. McFATRIDGE.

Stephen Allen's Pocket-Piece.

In the pocket-book of the Hon. Stephen Allen, who was drowned on board the H. Clay, was found a printed slip, apparently cut from a newspaper, of which the following is a copy. It is worthy to be put in every newspaper, and being engraved on every young man's heart:

Make few promises.
Always speak the truth.
Keep good company or none.
Never speak evil of any one.
Live up to your engagements.
Be just before you are generous.
Never play at any game of chance.
Drink no kind of intoxicating liquors.
Good character is above all things else.

Keep your own secrets if you have any.

Never borrow if you possibly can help it.

Do not marry until you are able to support a wife.

Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy.

When you speak to a person, look him in the face.

Make no haste to be rich, if you would prosper.

Ever live (misfortune excepted) within your own income.

Save when you are young, to spend when you are old.

Avoid temptation, through fear you may not withstand it.

Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out again.

Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.

Your character can not be essentially injured except by your own acts.

If any one speaks evil of you, let your life be so that none will believe him.

When you retire to bed, think over what you have been doing during the day.

Never be idle; if your hands can not be employed usefully, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Read over the above maxims carefully and thoughtfully at least once every week.

A Card.

Please inform the readers of the JOURNAL, that notwithstanding my severe loss of all my bees—by accident—except three weakly colonies, that I can still send bee plant seed. Several persons have written to know if I would sell them some seed, as they had none and could not exchange. Tell all such that seed is FREE. Send stamp and get it.

I have another suggestion to make to bee keepers, which I believe will be of some benefit; that is, when you write to one another, just enclose a small package of some good bee plant seed or root. Try it, bee keepers.

HARRY GOODLANDER.

Leesburg, Ind.

The Bee.

"Mark the bee;

She, too, an artist is—a cunning artist,
Who at the roof begins her golden work
And builds without foundation. How she toils,

And still from bed to bed, from flower to flower,

Travels the livelong day! Ye idle drones,
Who rather pilfer than your bread obtain
By honest means like these, behold and learn
How grand, how fair, how honorable it is,
To live by industry! The busy tribes

Of bees, so emulous, are daily fed,
Because they daily toil. And bounteous heaven,

Still to the diligent and active good,
Their very labor makes the cause of health."

National Bee Keepers' Association.

(Continued.)

All are aware that no branch of industry is so poorly supported by confidence as that of apiculture; and all intelligent and successful bee keepers are aware also, that this universal lack of faith is due to two principal causes, namely, imposition and a lack of true knowledge as to how to manage bees. Imposters have visited, and I hope to be pardoned for asserting that they are still visiting, every foot of territory throughout the country, and are selling both hives and books which are in many instances worse than useless when tested in practical bee keeping. But whilst such is the case, I would not have it understood that all who fail can justly claim that they have been imposed upon, either in the merits of the hive or the book on bee keeping, which they have purchased.

For, as is the case in all pursuits, many persons begin and make disastrous failures. Some to my own personal knowledge have read a standard work on bee keeping, but have never studied it carefully, and have at the same time commenced bee keeping on a large scale with a good hive and in a short time have abandoned the pursuit in perfect disgust, on account of severe loss sustained.

But I have never yet met with any one that commenced cautiously, on a small scale, and increased his colonies in numbers in proportion to the increase of knowledge and ability to manage them, who was dissatisfied with the results. But whilst such is the case, it is of the utmost importance in giving advice to beginners, to look well not only to the acquirement of a knowledge of the habits of the bees, where it is desired to keep them in large numbers, but also to look well to the location and season.

For any country which does not abound in honey producing plants in large quantities, and is subject to protracted droughts, is not calculated at all for bee keeping as a profession; yet all

sections of country which are adapted to agricultural pursuits, will support a sufficient number of bees to supply the inhabitants with honey for home consumption, if the necessary attention be given them. But all who have devoted much time and attention to apiculture are aware that such teaching has not been practiced on a large scale by many who have scattered yellow-backed bee literature in every portion of country upon our continent; but, on the contrary, these six leaved pamphlets have been printed and sown broadcast among the anxious but unsuspecting, and uninformed bee owners, under the title of true guides to fortunes in bee raising: no matter what the character of the country might be in which they chanced to find a victim. The only things required to insure success and wealth, through the medium of the apiary, they tell us, are their hive and their so-called store-house of information, and the matter is at once sealed in our behalf. We, of course, are in favor of any move that will in a short space of time make us wealthy. The hive and book are both bought at high figures, as an institution which is to make us wealthy can not be gotten up for any trifling sum; our bees are turned in, and we go to bed contented, and seldom ever wake up on the subject of being cheated, until our bees are either dead, or in a condition almost if not entirely worthless. Occasionally however, the bees do not perish, but the owner learns, after considerable disappointment and pecuniary loss, that there is something in the shape of a mistake about that book and hive of his and he drops the matter, and concludes that there is no money in bee keeping to him, as he has no luck with bees.

But it would be useless for me to proceed farther with a rehearsal of the frauds and deceptions which have been palmed off upon the uninformed. What is most important to us as a national society, if we mean to advance bee keeping interests, is to adopt measures by which such fraudulent impostors, can be to a great extent defeated, and reliable information put into the hands of all, by printing in full our proceedings, and of-

fering them at such figures as all can afford to pay. True, our proceedings will not take the place of a standard work on the habits of bees and their management in every particular, but they will in many respects furnish the masses with knowledge of a reliable character, which no work now in print can produce, and information too, which will prove to be of infinite value not only to the beginner, but to many who have the benefit of years of experience in practical bee keeping.

But, says one, has not all this been done, and is it not the object of our society still to have our proceeding printed, and offered to the public? In reply, I would say, that in part it has been done, but not in full, and unless our constitution and by-laws are so shaped as to provide for the accumulation of a treasury fund, I see but one plan by which this object can be accomplished, and that is for the editors of all our bee journals to procure and publish a full report. And in order that they may procure a full report, our society should employ some one who is fully competent to make out a complete copy, and furnish the same to each editor, who can well afford to put the same in print, and send it in company with their journals to each subscriber; for it will render them much more interesting and valuable to the readers, who, on this account, will procure a much larger number of subscribers than they will if the journals are less interesting.

Such a plan, however, can only be carried out in full, by a hearty co-operation of those who edit our bee journals from time to time, and can not, to say the best of it, be made an effective measure longer than from one session to another. And in case the editors who make such arrangements happen to vacate the editorial chair, before the proceedings are printed and distributed, the matter is left to the option of their successors which leaves it surrounded with uncertainty. So that the surest plan will be that of raising the necessary fund, within ourselves, and have our printing done. And there are two methods of obtaining a sufficient amount of means to accomplish this. One is to appeal to

the liberality of the members of the society at our meetings, and the other is that of amending our by-laws, so as to tax each member fifty cents or one dollar per annum, or as much as may be necessary to defray the expense of printing.

To some it may be uninteresting to hear this matter discussed, but to such I would say, that this is a matter of no minor importance, as it is the very foundation upon which depends our future prospects of success and profit, to not only the masses who are annually looking to us for something new and valuable, but to ourselves. For, if we expect to be very materially benefitted by meeting together from time to time as a national body, it is a matter of the most vital importance to have our transactions in print, to be kept as a book of reference when at home. For there is no one whose memory is so good as to enable him to make a record of all he hears, in his mind, and be ready to call the same into requisition whenever circumstances may demand it.

But aside from this, if the results of our experience in practical bee keeping, are put in print and distributed throughout the country, thousands of persons, both male and female, who up to the present time have little or no knowledge of apiculture as a branch of industry, will be induced to engage in it at once. Such will be the case, more especially with the women of our country than many now suppose, as many of them are favorably situated in every respect, except that of a competent knowledge, as to how bees are to be handled in order to be profitable.

A true knowledge of bee keeping will at once teach them that this pursuit is peculiarly adapted to their sex. The apiary being situated near the dwelling, renders it convenient for them to superintend the same and see that their little servants and co-laborers are kept constantly employed in an advantageous and profitable manner.

At the present time we have quite a number of talented and educated ladies who are engaged in bee keeping, and are admirers of the same as a pursuit of income and profit; and many of them

have requested me, through the medium of numerous letters received, to use every effort in my power to encourage women to resort to this branch of business as a means of support. And I know of no one method so well calculated to offer such encouragement as that of placing our proceeding in the hands of thousands who as yet know nothing of this profession as one of income. And by adopting this plan, we place before them the names and addresses of several, who are reaping handsome rewards from their bees.

But, ladies and gentlemen, time forbids that I should discuss this subject at greater length, as there are many other matters of importance to be considered by our society. But I must request most earnestly, that before we adjourn, effective measures will be adopted through which our proceedings will appear in print promptly after each session, and reach the firesides of many who as yet are uninformed as to the merits of this occupation. And in conclusion, I will state that unless we can devise means, through which our record can be put in print, I can not encourage the upbuilding and farther prosperity of a national society of bee keepers.

G. BOHRER.

Dr. Bohrer's paper was, on motion referred to the business committee.

The president drew the attention of the society to the topics suggested by Mr. Quinby, as presented in the president's address, and suggested that they be taken up and disposed of, which was agreed to.

Mr. Quinby's first question was:

"Will right management of bees develop peacefulness of disposition, as we know wrong management develops the opposite?"

Dr. Bohrer, of Indiana, said he had handled bees roughly without irritating them, while others could not be kept peaceable with the quietest handling. They varied in temperament. He considered that they had fixed habits, while their dispositions were inconstant, but that they acted wholly on the defensive. By gorging them with liquid sweets, they were generally rendered amiable. In one instance he had, for six successive

days, handled a colony of bees repeatedly without their showing the least resentment. On the seventh day he opened them with the usual care and precaution, and they became terribly excited. All of them flew at him, and yet he was not aware of doing anything unusual or that should have irritated them.

Dr. Geo. L. Lucas, of Peoria, Illinois, differed from Dr. Bohrer; had seen one Brooks, of McLean Co., Illinois, exhibit bees at fairs that he was satisfied were tamed. He carried them about for weeks and handled them with impunity. On one occasion Dr. L. handled them himself, when Brooks was disabled from doing so, and found them to be as gentle as could be wished. He tried his own uneducated bees and failed. Thought they could be taught to recognize their keeper by scents.

Dr. Bohrer. Were they not fed on liquid sweets?

Dr. Lucas. They were not fed at all. Brooks used no sweets. It was in his opinion a matter of education.

Mr. R. A. Southworth, of Odell, Illinois, thought with Dr. L. that bees could be tamed. After handling bees from four to six days he was enabled to open them without taking the usual precaution of alarming them first.

Mrs. E. S. Tupper, of Des Moines, Iowa, thought that the members misunderstood Mr. Quinby's question. She understood the question to apply to the permanent improvement of the race, by careful breeding and selection, and not to the management of single colonies. Bees at fairs are not in a normal condition, and consequently do not act normally. To teach bees in an apiary to know their owners would require constant teaching, as the lifetime of a bee is short, and young bees were constantly taking the place of the old ones, so that every day new acquaintances would have to be formed; thought that they did not know the way they were handled and managed, and only responded with gentleness to gentle and proper handling, such as a good beemaster knew how to give; that they did not know strangers, but that strangers were ignorant how to act with them, and sup-

posed in consequence. Dr. Bohrer no doubt acted carelessly on the seventh day, having too much confidence in the amiableness of his colony of bees. Some bees are cross while others are the opposite under, apparently the same conditions. If we would pay more attention to the selection of queens to breed from, whose progeny had the desirable qualities in the greatest perfection, great improvements might be permanently made.

Dr. Lucas asked how far from a normal condition are the bees at fairs, when they were set down and opened and went to work carrying in honey and pollen?

Mrs. Tupper. The moving and stirring of the crowd around them kept them in continual alarm, so that they were always filled with honey, and consequently in a peaceful, normal condition. Hives that are continually disturbed every day, are always more easily managed, for they are kept in an abnormal condition.

Mr. G. W. Zimmerman, of Urbana, Ohio, asked, Does opening a hive often make the bees more quiet?

Mrs. Tupper. It does.

Mr. W. R. King, of Franklin, Ky., asked, Did not Dr. Bohrer kill some of the bees, and thus cause irritation?

Dr. Bohrer. Did not kill any.

Mr. W. R. King, thought that the scent of crushed bees would induce anger.

Aaron Benedict, Bennington, O. Bees are influenced by the condition of the atmosphere and weather, and are more easily roused to anger in damp or rainy weather.

Mr. A. J. Pope, Indianapolis, Ind. Had a hive that he opened five or six times a day for some time and always found the colony peaceable, but after letting them alone for several days they showed rage when he attempted to open it.

A. F. Moon, Indianapolis, Ind. Bees could be domesticated only on the principle advocated by Mrs. Tupper. The progeny of different queens differed in temper and other qualities, just as with man and the brute creation, and by a careful selection we may make the desired qualities regular and permanent.

Mr. Seth Hoagland, Mercer, Pa. Bees

taken to a strange place were generally peaceable when opened. They become cowed. A "rooster" fights best on his own dunghill. Thought bees susceptible of education, but that they could be improved by selection and breeding as advocated by Mrs. Tupper and Mr. Moon.

Mr. McFatridge, of Carthage, Indiana, did not believe that moving bees tamed them. He practiced moving his bees to pasturage twenty to thirty miles every year, to take advantage of the poplar linden, and other flowers that were located apart in different groves, and found many, that on opening them, "gave him fits."

Mr. Hoagland did not mean that moving in all cases tamed bees, but that was its tendency.

A. F. Moon. No bees were so docile, but what they could be excited to anger, but as a rule, if you will deal gently with bees they will deal gently with you. Moving bees did make a difference, but while some would be subjugated by it, others seemed to be more belligerent.

Rev. H. A. King, of N. Y. If bees are thoroughly subdued there would be no show of anger. It should be thorough when undertaken.

I. S. Merrill, Fortville, Ind. Breathing on bees will irritate them. Had known instances where the breath of strangers, six or eight feet off, to the windward of the bees, had enraged them.

A. Pullen, Beverly, Illinois, sawed and bored holes in the top of a hive to put honey boxes on, without exciting the anger of the bees.

I. W. Hosmer, Janesville, Minn. Bees can be domesticated. He had some bees set by a path that became so accustomed to passers that they never tried to sting. Believed that they could be so familiarized and accustomed to being handled, that they would be perfectly peaceable.

Dr. T. B. Hamlin, Edgefield Junction, Tenn., gave experience with bees placed on a path near a gate that was used and slammed repeatedly during the day, and thought they became accustomed to it, and did not mind it. They were not Italian bees, but the gray bees of the South.

Mr. McFatridge had bees in the Huber

leaf hive, which he set on his porch, which soon became so tame that they bothered no one.

President Clarke thought Mrs. Tupper correct in the construction she put on Mr. Quinby's question. It was an interesting subject; more so to him, perhaps, than to others, from the fact that he was *bee* hated. Why should we not improve them, and even carry it to such an extent that they would have no inclination to sting, except upon very rare occasions. It was probable it could be done. There was evidently a difference in the temper of different colonies of bees of the same variety; there was no doubt that they had their moods, the best of them are not always alike amiable. They were in that respect like men and women, but some you can approach, at all times, with confidence; others you have to find out their moods before approaching them. A mother may have a gentle progeny, while her daughter queens may produce a vicious offspring through the influence of a remoter ancestry. We have to take all these things into account, and use appropriate means to correct what is wrong and encourage what is desirable. As a rule, it does not take as much to arouse the black bees as the Italians. They are easier to take offense.

Dr. Bohrer. Have you had any experience in taming the zebra?

President Clarke No, but in proof of a diversity in the natural disposition of bees, he might say, that he had in one instance a colony sent him by express, that from rough handling was broken open on the route, yet they came and were delivered without troubling any one on the cars, while another that was expressed in the same way, got broken open and stung around generally. The locomotive had to put on extra speed to run away from them.

Mr. Hoagland, Pa., could not join Mr. Clarke in the wish for a race of bees that had no stings.

President Clarke. Did not say a race of bees that had no stings, but he wanted to breed out of them the desire to use them on ordinary occasions.

Mr. Hoagland thought that their being armed with a sting was a wise arrange-

ment, as without the means to defend their stores, they would be continually robbed and become extinct. Their existence depended on their stings, and he thought they could not be entirely deprived of the instinct to use them.

Dr. Bohrer thought they could not be rid of the disposition to resist assaults or robbery. Liquid sweets and other means could be used to control them, but even then, if roughly handled, they would resist.

Mr. Pillep. Never strike about them or blow your breath on them, or they will resent it.

Dr. Hamlin had a colony that became noted for extreme crossness whenever approached, but by being very cautious and gentle, and taking time, he was enabled to handle them even without the use of smoke. He was at least twenty or thirty minutes in opening the hive, for when he attempted to raise the honey board they were ready to fly at him, but after patient and repeated trials, he took it off, and took out the frames without arousing the anger of any of them.

The society adjourned to 2 o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The society met at 2 o'clock. Vice President Clarke in the Chair.

The business committee, by their chairman, Seth Hoagland, of Pennsylvania, made a report in part, which was received, and after some discussion and slight amendments, was adopted, as follows:

The business committee report the order of business as follows:

1st. There shall be three sessions each day, from 8 A. M. to 12 noon; from 1½ to 5 P. M., and from 7 to 9½ evening.

2d. That D. L. Adair be employed as reporter of the society, and that a full report be had of the proceedings to be published in the different Bee Journals and Agricultural papers.

3d. The election of officers shall be held at 3 o'clock P. M.

4th. Discussion of unfinished topics of forenoon session.

5th. Topic for discussion at night session. "Is bee keeping desirable on all farms and at all suburban homes?"

Hon. M. L. Dunlap, of Champaign City, Illinois, moved to amend the 5th article of the constitution, so as to read:

"Any person may become a member by giving his or her name to the Secretary, and paying an annual fee of \$1.00 except ladies, who shall be admitted free of charge," which was seconded and finally adopted after animated discussion.

The hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the special order, which was the election of officers, was called, the result of which was as follows:

Rev. W. F. Clarke, of Guelph, in the Province of Ontario, Dominion of Canada, was elected President.

Rev. H. A. King, of the City of New York, was elected Secretary; D. L. Adair, of Hawesville, Kentucky, was elected Corresponding Secretary; Hon. M. L. Dunlap, of Champaign City, Illinois, was elected Treasurer.

The following Vice Presidents were elected:

For Ohio, S. P. Shipley, Olena.

" New York, Capt. J. E. Hetherington, Cherry Valley.

" Pennsylvania, Seth Hoagland, Mercer.

" Kentucky, W. R. King, Franklin.

" Tennessee, Dr. T. B. Hamlin, Edgefield Junction.

" Indiana, W. A. Schofield, Indianapolis.

" Michigan, Prof. A. J. Cook, Lansing.

" Illinois, Dr. Jewell Davis, Charleston.

" Minnesota, J. W. Hosmer, Janesville.

" Iowa, Mrs. E. S. Tupper, Des Moines.

" Missouri, L. C. Waite, St. Louis.

" Kansas, Dr. L. J. Dallas, Baldwin City.

" Utah, W. D. Roberts, Provo City.

" New Jersey, E. J. Peck, Linden.

" Wisconsin, Rev. A. H. Hart, Appleton.

" District Columbia, Hugh Cameron, Washington.

" Ontario, Dr. J. C. Thorn, Garafraxa.

" Georgia, R. Peters, Atlanta.

" Texas, Rev. R. Sproull, Valasco.

" Arkansas, Wm. H. Fulton, Little Rock.

" Maine, Mrs. A. C. Hatch, Houlton.

" Connecticut, Wm. H. Kirk, West Cheshire.

" Louisiana, John Kasson, Alexandria.

" Alabama, Miss Fannie L. Norris, Shelby Springs.

" Massachusetts, E. N. Dyer, Amherst.

" West Virginia, A. Chapman, New Cumberland.

" Nebraska, W. Young, Plattsmouth.

(To be continued.)

Special Notice.

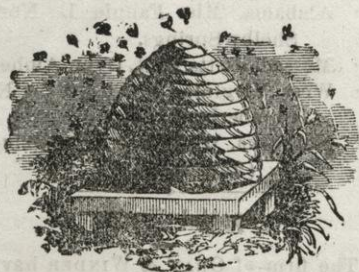
The firm of GRAY & WINDER having dissolved by mutual consent. The undersigned will continue the business, to whom all orders for GRAY'S HONEY, GERTER'S WAX EXTRACTORS, and ITALIAN QUEENS, should be sent. See Advertisement. A. GRAY.

A Beautiful Handwriting.

There are but few of our readers who would not like to acquire a rapid and beautiful handwriting, for there is no other one accomplishment so highly prized as this. The business colleges of the country have afforded the best instruction in this branch, and have succeeded in producing the most accomplished penmen. The best penman in America to-day is Prof. GASKELL, President of the Bryant & Stratton College of Manchester, N. H. There are few lovers of the beautiful art of penmanship, who have not heard of this wonderful penman, and many have seen specimens of his skill. His large specimens have attracted great attention in New York city, and throughout the country where they have been placed on exhibition.

He is now engaged day and night sending out copies for self-instruction, which he writes himself expressly for applicants, so that any one can learn to write at the home fireside. These contain full printed instructions, and are put up in large heavy envelopes, and sent by mail prepaid for \$1.00 per package. They are all numbered, and so fully explained, that no one can fail to learn rapidly and readily from them. They have been ordered by thousands—not by poor writers alone, but by the leading teachers of penmanship throughout the United States and Canada. Our readers would do well to write for a package, as nothing so complete, beautiful and useful for self-instruction will ever again be offered them.

EDITOR'S TABLE.



INDIANAPOLIS, FEB. 1, 1873.

To Our Patrons.

With the beginning of the year, a large number of the subscriptions of the JOURNAL expired. We are happy to state that a good many of our patrons have already renewed for the coming year, and in their letters not only sanction our course in the past, but cheer us on to continue in the same path, and give us the assurance that they will lend a helping hand, both in enlarging the circulation, and in aiding by sending us communications. As these letters of approbation are so numerous that we are unable to answer, as we should like to do, each one of them separate, we take this course of thanking each and all of our friends and well wishers, with the renewed assurance that we will try to be deserving of the compliments and good wishes bestowed upon us so liberally.

We respectfully request those patrons of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, whose time of subscription has expired, and who wish to continue it during 1873, to send us their renewals as soon as possible.

In connection with the above, we would again refer to our liberal Premium List. The inducements offered are second to none of similar journals.

SEE our club list on the second page of this number.

ON another page of this issue, we give extracts from our German exchanges. Our translator seems to have been particularly fond of dwelling on accidents caused by enraged bees. Similar occurrences have never happened, to our knowledge, in this country. Whether the bees in the old country are not so highly cultivated, or of a more irritable nature, is a question, which we at present feel unable to decide.

The proceedings of the Convention continue to occupy such an amount of our space, that we are unable to publish all of the valuable correspondence sent by our contributors, and also limit our space for editorials.

WE had laid on our table, by the inventor, MRS. FARNHAM, an attachment to put on the front of any hive to prevent swarming, which we hope to give a fair trial the coming season, and then report our success.

WE have changed the form of our paper, giving to our readers nearly double the amount of reading matter. The cost is a little more than formerly, but if our readers are satisfied we charge no more, and hope it will prove satisfactory.

THE article of Mrs. Tupper, on the treating of bees in February, which we publish on another page, exhausts the subject so thoroughly, that it leaves us but very little to add. The beautiful weather, which now on many days intermingles with the parting winter, must remind us of our duties towards our "little pets," and how to make them prolific and profitable to us. They want to be carefully looked after, each hive must be closely examined, and all pains taken to make them comfortable. We ought to feed them regularly with rye or wheat flour—of which bees prefer the former—sugar or sirup.

The indications are very flattering for a good and lucrative honey season, and if our apiarians make good use of past experience, we do not doubt, but that the present year will amply remunerate for a great many short comings.

THE LADIES', OR, QUEEN BEE HIVE.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS ON HAND FOR SALE, AT THIS OFFICE, THE far famed LADIES' HIVE, (better known as the Queen Bee Hive,) made of the best material, well painted, and put up for shipping for the sum of Three Dollars each. Large or small orders filled at that price.

Our rapidly increasing business enables us to offer to bee keepers a Hive well adapted to all persons and changes of climates, and with many advantages over high priced Hives.

Also, Honey Extractors, Honey Trowels, and Clover Seed for sale.

Please send stamp for information to

Mrs. T. ATKINSON,

Editress National Bee Journal, Tilford's Building, Indianapolis, Ind.

EXTRACTS from LETTERS RECOMMENDING the QUEEN BEE HIVE.

Mrs. T. Atkinson, Indianapolis, Indiana:

ESTEEMED FRIEND:—I have used thy Hive now three years, and it gives me pleasure to say to thee that thy Hive is all thee recommend it to be, and I would cheerfully give information of its superior qualities to any one wishing to learn.

Truly thy friend, JENNY MERRIT, Milton, Wayne Co., Ind.

My Dear Mrs. Atkinson, Indianapolis, Indiana:

Having recommended your Hive to many of my friends, although at present I am not in the bee business, I will still recommend it to all, and to lady bee keepers especially. Having closely observed the difference in the working of the many different hives I have had in use, would say without the least hesitation, the Queen Hive is the best for ease of management, and economy of time, the last of which I consider of great importance to bee keepers. Will call at your office in a few days with a lady friend, who is going extensively into the bee business. Excuse this note.

From your friend, KATE REDFORD, Indianapolis, Ind.

Mrs. T. Atkinson, Editress National Bee Journal, Indianapolis, Indiana:

DEAR MADAM:—Please send me a sample of the last improved Queen Bee Hive. I have been using it for the last two years, and like it better all the time; in fact, I would not look at any other.

SAMUEL N. REPROGLE, Hagerstown, Wayne Co., Ind.

Mrs. T. Atkinson, Indianapolis, Indiana:

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12 Miles from Native Bees

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A. GRAY.

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Cincinnati Daily Commercial, Nov. 18, 1872.

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Sheals Bros.....	Cow.....	30
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H. B. Stout.....	Mare.....	100
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Wm. H. Henschen.....	Horse.....	150
Abel Catterson.....	Horse.....	200
Keeney & Davenport.....	Horse.....	100
P. E. Domon.....	Mare.....	100
Jacob Mattern.....	Horse.....	80
".....	Horse.....	61
Daniel Gorman.....	Horse.....	75
Menical & Landers.....	Three Hogs.....	21
Geo. Scott, damage on Mare.....		75
Franklin Landers.....	Twelve Hogs.....	84
Jackson Record.....	Two Hogs.....	14
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J. C. Anderson.....	Horse.....	200
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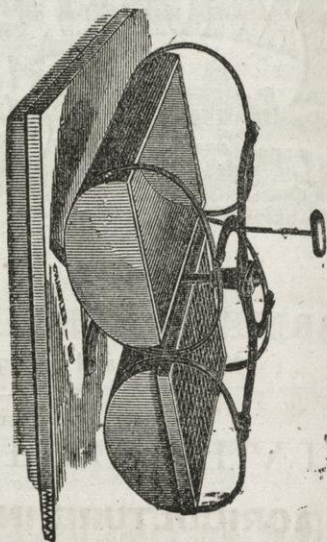
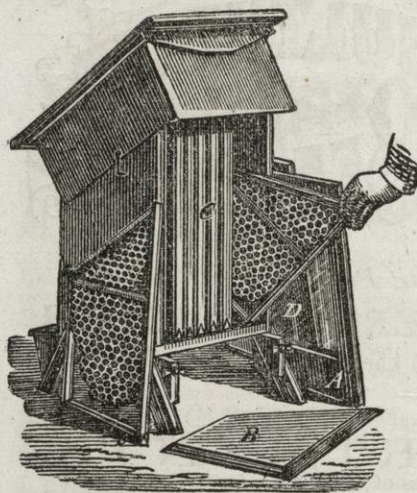
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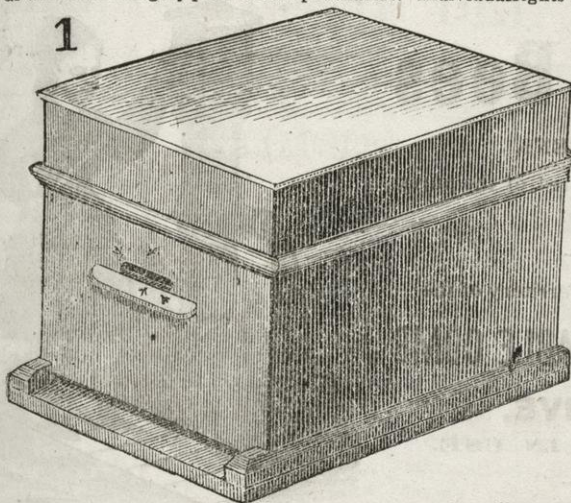
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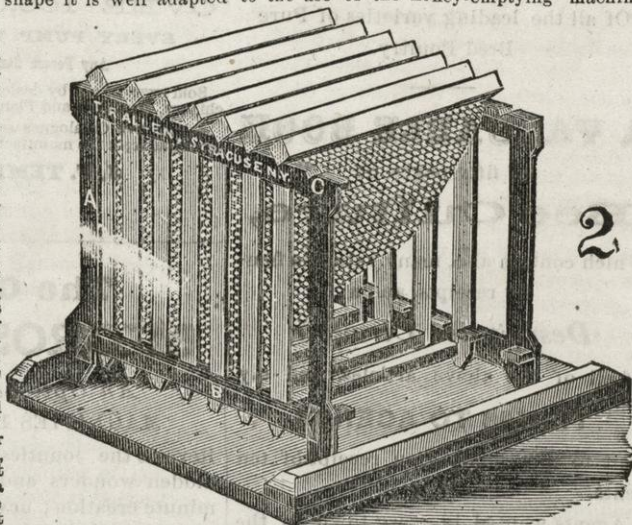
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pages 63-66 missing - probably added in