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Mechanic Falls, Maine: W.W. Merrill, January, 1883

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**THE
NEW ENGLAND**

APIARIAN

DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO

BEE CULTURE.

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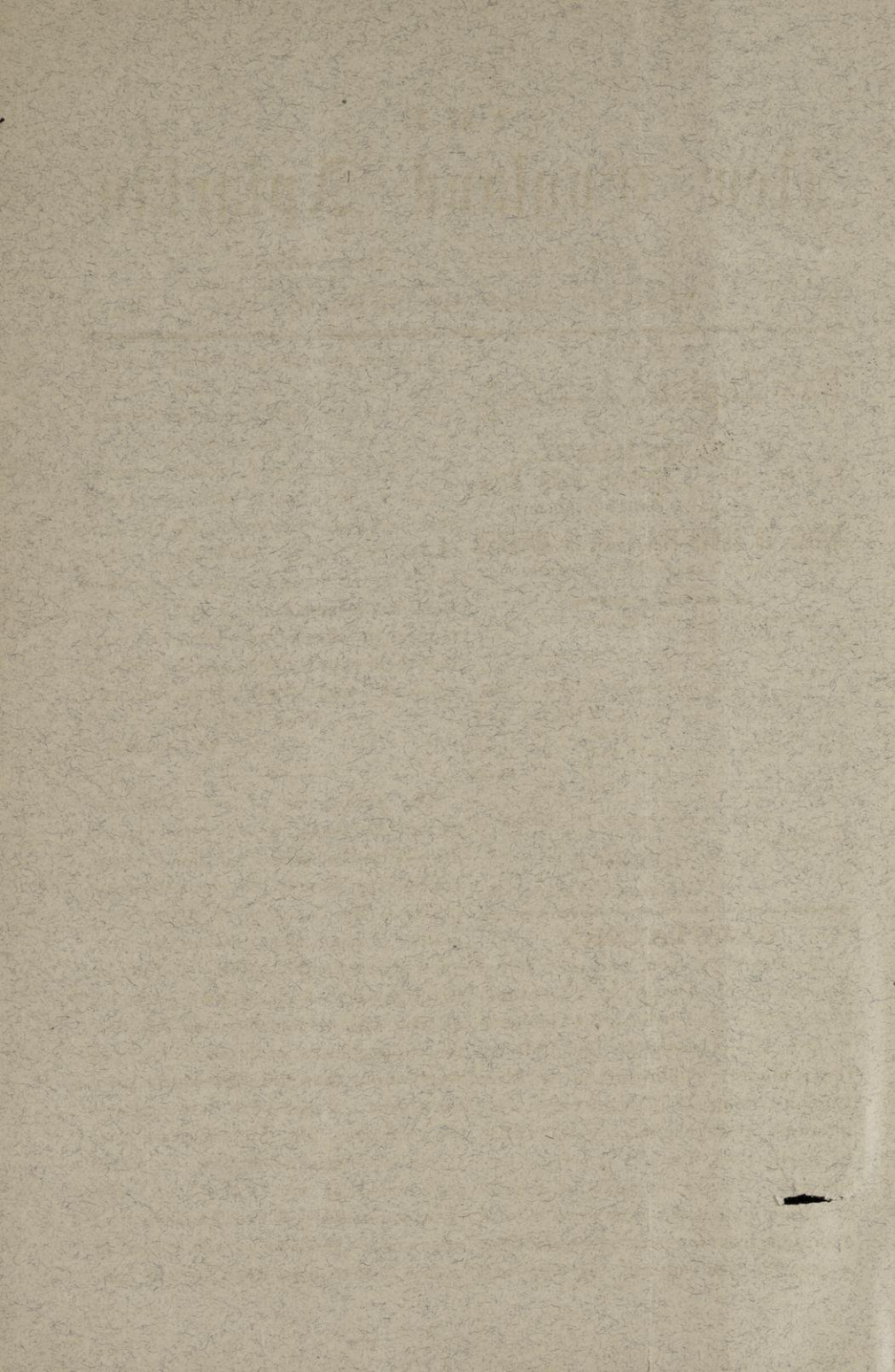
Published on the 15th of each Month.

JANUARY, 1883.

PUBLISHED BY

W. W. MERRILL,

MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE.



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THE New England Apiarian.

Devoted Exclusively to Bee Culture.

VOL. I. MECHANIC FALLS, ME., JANUARY, 1883. No. 1.

THE New England Apiarian,

PUBLISHED BY
W. W. MERRILL,
P. O. Box 100, Mechanic Falls, Maine.

Published on the 15th of each month.

TERMS, 75 CENTS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.
Liberal inducements to Agents.

Advertising Rates.

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All notices, communications, etc., should be addressed to

W. W. MERRILL,
MECHANIC FALLS, ME.

SALUTATORY.

In presenting you with the initial number of the APIARIAN, it is proper to observe, that I believe it to be beneficial to all interested in Bee Culture, that a monthly publication in the New England States should be issued in their interests, and if the same was found to be meritorious, it would be largely patronized. Having the facilities, together with a disposition to issue such, with assurance from the most successful men engaged in Bee Culture, that they will

contribute articles of rare excellence for each number; I enter upon the task with a feeling that the publication will be read with interest, and will be worthy of your patronage, which is earnestly solicited. My office is well stocked with cuts, and I am prepared to do any kind of Job Printing for Bee Keepers. Not believing in large promises but rather hard and earnest work, I will leave my readers to judge of my efforts and hope that their expectations, (at the close of the year,) may be more than realized.

With Respect,
W. W. Merrill.

The publication of THE NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN, is a monthly journal devoted to the interests of Bee Culture, and giving largely the experiences of practical Bee Keepers; I regard as a matter of much importance, and much good promise to the public; and I wish to commend it to all, who are engaged, or who wish to engage in the business, for, to beginners, each number will be worth more than the subscription price for a year. I also wish to recommend the publisher, Mr. Merrill, as a competent and responsible man, in whom the public may trust without fear that their confidence will prove to have been misplaced. He is in no way connected with a former short-lived journal pub-

lished in this place; and under his management, I believe that the APIARIAN will live, and live to do good.

There is money as well as honey in the business of keeping bees, and either the pleasure, or the profit, will well repay one for entering, and following the business intelligently, carefully, and faithfully.

J. B. MASON.

Mechanic Falls, Me.

For the New England Apiarian.

Mr. Merrill;—Dear Sir:

Of making books there is no end, and the very woods are full of newspapers, religious, political, agriculture and otherwise; yet notwithstanding all these chances to get information, we find many people who know not which creed to believe, or which way to vote; whether to hill up corn, or plant by level culture; whether glucose is a wholesome article for daily consumption on our tables, or whether it is, when taken into our economy, liable to turn eater and consume us. In view of these uncertainties among the good people of our land, and especially the good old State of Maine, it becomes every man who feels he has a mission for good in this life to gird up his loins, and go forth to do battle for truth, justice and right. So I am glad you are going to enlist in this fight against error, and I hope your light will be bright and shining, and darkness will flee away before it; and that you will enlighten us all as to the best methods of Apiculture in Maine and New England, and all your efforts will be satisfactory to yourself both from an asthetic and pecuniary

point of view. I wish you abundant success. During a considerably extensive reading of Standard Authors, and current literature on bee keeping, and from what little experience I have had, I have become convinced that we labor under some difficulties which ought to be remedied: one very great one, is a multiplicity of HIVES and FRAMES. If we could only have a UNIFORM STANDARD FRAME in Maine, for the whole cold northern part of the country, it would so much facilitate the buying and selling and interchange of bees among us, and save in the end dollars and dollars. What do you think of this matter? More next time.

Yours truly,

J. A. Morton.

Bethel, Me., Dec. 27, 1882.

For the New England Apiarian.

Why a Local Bee Paper should be supported.

J. CARSWELL.

In acceding to your request to send a few lines for insertion in the first number of the NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN, permit me to wish you great success in the venture you are making. All enterprises of the kind are beset with difficulties and discouragements at the outset, and especially is this the case if a somewhat similar attempt has been previously made, in the same locality, and failed. Patience, push, and perseverance will, I hope, overcome all obstacles, and put the paper, in a short time, on a sure and satisfactory basis. It seems almost incredible that yours should be the only bee paper published

in the New England States. How have the numerous bee keepers, scattered throughout these fine old States, done so long without some organ of communication? some local channel through which thoughts may be exchanged, and information imparted. They have no doubt been receiving one, or other of the various journals in circulation; for no one can expect to succeed as an Apiarian that does not do this. We cannot keep abreast of the times, unless posted in all late improvements. But good as these journals are, which are published at a distance, there are great advantages to be derived from having one published near home. It will contain many local items of interest. It will give the current price of honey at the nearest markets and contain the advertisements of the nearest dealers in bee supplies. It will convey information more especially adapted to the climate of the region through which it circulates. On this great American Continent, we have such diversities of climate, that what suits some latitudes is totally unfitted for others. We must ever bear this in mind in estimating the value and practicability of any information communicated. A paper published somewhere in the district where we reside is likely to give us the results of experiments made by bee men, in a climate akin to our own, and so of such a character as to be especially useful to us. It will thus be greatly to the advantage of all bee keepers in the constituency of your paper, to support it hastily, and do all they can to make it a grand success.

Adelaide, Ont.

For the New England Apiarian.

What is the Coming Section.

A. J. COOK.

This is a world of manias, to-day one thing is all the rage, to-morrow it is buried beneath rampant enthusiasm for something quite unlike itself. Of late the furor in honey production has been all for the extracted article, few have been the advocates of the beautiful comb, nearly every Apiary from Maine to Texas, and from Florida to California, has sounded forth the hum of the extractor, the whole season through. The many large yields of finest comb honey the past season, with little labor, and highest prices, have led many bee keepers to thoughtfully consider whether they may not wisely change this system, and work for the comb honey. The numerous reports like that of Dr. C. C. Miller, of Illinois, who, with no help except that rendered by a faithful helpmate, cared for 174 colonies of bees, which he increased to 200, and secured 16000 lbs of finest comb honey, which sold for about \$3,000, is quite enough to shake up extractor bee men. Can it be in these days of foundation that the old estimate, of two or three times as much extracted as comb honey is correct? Such doubts and suggestions make the discussion of sections and apparatus for securing comb honey, most opportune. The fact that many of our most able apiarists do without separators, and meet no obstacle in their rejection, leads to the conclusion that the coming sections will be without separators. Surely separators cost too much to be retained, if they are no advantage.

To dispense with separators and still get straight combs is what is desired; to do this our best bee keepers lessen the thickness of the sections; instead of a section two inches thick, they use one 1 3-4, 1 5-8, 1 1-2, or even 1 3-8 inches thick. If foundation is used with these there will be no difficulty in securing straight combs, More bees can get on to the foundation to draw it out, and the the pieces are neater for the table. The size of the Coming Section will doubtless be such as to hold 1 lb. of honey, though there is some indication that 1-2 lb. is to be the size. These find more ready sale, than do larger sizes, and if put on to the hives in crates, one set at first, they are accepted readily by the bees; If the sections are a little longer up and down, and not square, some think the bees enter them more readily, and build out to the section better. Let us hear from others on the Coming Section.

Lansing, Mich.

For the New England Apiarian.

My Experience as a Bee Keeper.

G. W. DEMAREE.

My experience as a bee keeper antedates the modern system of bee keeping. I sometimes smile when I think of the days of my youth, how I use to assist my father in his box hive Apiary, and thought that I knew a great deal about bees, when in fact I did not have the remotest idea of natural history and habits of the little subject under my care. In after years when I had become a house keeper all alone, "She and I—" I procured some bees and

commenced their culture in an improved box hive; this box hive had "V" shaped bars across the top to which the bees attached their combs precisely like they build to the top bars of the modern frames. When I lived a swarm in one of these box hives, I spread a cloth over the bars and on this I fastened a board; this was decidedly an improvement over the old system, as the cloth prevented the bees from propolizing the board cover; when the proper time arived for the surplus box to be put on, I had only to remove the cover, peel off the cloth, and fit on the surplus box which was about 5 inches deep and the same size of the hive; over this was slipped a "super" which rested on strips nailed around the hive about a half inch from the top; when the surplus boxes were full of honey the super was removed, and a wire was drawn between the surplus box and the top of the hive, thus severing the combs of honey from the top of the bars to which they were always attached if the boxes were well filled, of course many a bee was sawed in two by this operation. At that time I really thought that the method of bee culture above described, was nearly perfection itself. Certainly after I had by my inventive genius added somewhat to the original invention, which was attributed to a Mr. Minor, of the State of New York. By the way, I in those days, read the book published by Mr. Minor, on the Apiary, which contained many advanced ideas and thoughts, for that day and age. About this time Mr. Langstroth was proving his scientific experiments, and soon afterwards his movable frame system was

offered to the public. An interval now intervened in which I kept no bees, not being permanently located, and especially because the great cholera year which swept away nearly all the bees in this State occurred, and bees were hard to obtain. I however to some extent, improved the time by studying the modern system of bee keeping, and in 1876, I purchased a colony of Italian bees in a Langstroth hive and set them up in an "Apiary" all alone,—and in my innocence of the habits of the queens and drones in the process of mating, I fully expected to build up an Italian Apiary without much trouble; the result was that out of the first dozen queens raised, I got one of them "purely" mated; this was a "stunner" to me; of course there was a few colonies of black bees in the vicinity, but writers on bee culture told us in those days—and still tell us—that "queens generally mate at home," and I thought that my young queens ought to obey orders, and "marry near home," especially as I had plenty of gallant drones of the pure breed in my own yard. The reader of experience in these matters, can readily imagine the disappointment and disgust which possessed me while I watched for the progeny of the young queens to hatch, and found them to be naughty hybrids instead of nice yellow banded bees, like the progeny of the queen selected as a breeder. But all this did not cause me to sit down and "whine"—I received these reverses as many dearly bought lessons, and proceeded to remedy the evil by purchasing the best queens from several persons and places, and in this way I flooded

the country with pure drones, and soon my perseverance began to tell, and my queens were better mated. These disappointments set me to experimenting also, and searching for all the hidden mysteries pertaining to the bee hive. Hours and days, weeks and months, have I spent to discover the "key" to unsolved problems pertaining to the economy of this wonderful insect life. In closing this short article, I wish to say that, aside from the profits to be derived from intelligent management of bees, the study of their habits and natural history, and the practice of the art of manipulating them, has been a source of much pleasure to me. In the future I hope to pursue the subject further.

Christiansburg, Ky.

For the New England Apiarian.

A Long Look Ahead.

E. A. THOMAS.

At the commencement of a new year let us sit down and consider the condition of the apiary, and how it can be improved during the coming summer. While the bees are enjoying their long winters repose, let each bee keeper investigate the causes of his past failures, that he may be able to avoid them in future. It is well to map out the seasons work thus early, that you may make your means subserve your ends. The successful man will always have some definite plan to guide him in all his actions, and I know of no occupation requiring more forethought than does bee culture; and if I were asked to give an aphorism applying to bee culture, I would say, take no step that

you have not carefully considered. The first and most important question which should come up for your consideration is, whether your present strain of bees is all that can be desired; and I indulge the hope that we are none of us conceited as to think that we have reached the pinnacle of perfection yet. Are your bees black? if so you have only to gather up the experience of the thousands who have passed along the road before you, to convince you of the expediency of Italianizing at the first favorable opportunity. If your bees are Italian, and they have not proved all that you could wish or desire, then look well to your education; inform yourself as to what constitutes a good strain, and how to test the different traits of character. It is absolutely necessary that you become conversant with all these subjects in order to improve your bees, and to understand in what way improvement is most needed. If your bees are industrious and not as prolific as you could wish, or vice versa, it should be yours to know how to improve their inferior qualities without deteriorating them in other ways. If you have not got sufficient knowledge to enable you to do this, you must depend on the experience of others to supply you with what you require; but in the meantime you can do much in the way of study, not only of the journals and books, but of the bees themselves. It is only in this way that you can know what improvement is needed in your bees, and how to select the strain that will best meet the wants of your apiary. But do not get discouraged if your first efforts in this direction fail, for, while we may none of us hope to ever reach perfection, we may surely strive for it, and as your ideas broaden and you become conversant with the nature and instincts of this truly wonderful insect, you will become imbued with that enthusiasm which will render all work in and around the apiary a pleasure. To those who imagine that they have reached the *NE PLUS ULTRA* of success in the way of a fine strain of bees, I would say that you must look well to your laurels, for this is a progressive age, and unless you keep active you will soon be left far behind. Make up your mind now what you will do in the way of improvement during the coming season, striving to excel those around you; it is in this way, and this way only that true progress can be made in our favorite pursuit. As regards myself I will say that, although receiving hundreds of letters testifying to the value of my strain of Italians, yet, as I come to appreciate the grand possibilities of the future, I realize how unsatisfactory my labors have been, and that I am only on the threshold of that far beyond which careful thought and hard study has spread before me. Not content with what I have already accomplished, and with a strong desire to still further improve the American bees, I am now making arrangements to conduct a series of experiments with different strain of Italians and also with other races. I shall also, during the coming summer, continue the testing of the new races of bees, trusting that by another season I shall arrive at some definite conclusion regarding their value. From time to time I will give the

readers of the **NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN** the results of my labors. I intend during the coming season to import a new strain of bees from Krain, Austria, called the Krainer bees, being now in correspondence with parties in Austria in regard to them. Many eminent German apiarists speak very highly regarding their hardiness; whether they will prove superior to my own bees in this respect or not, a trial will alone decide. Don't forget to read during these winter months and to post yourself in regard to all that is going on around you in the bee world. Subscribe for the **NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN**, for I am sure it will more than pay you in time and money saved through its teachings, and in the enjoyment you will find in reading the bright bee talk which it will contain. Now is the time to prepare for the opening of spring by storing your mind with such knowledge as shall enable you to manage your apiary in such a manner as to derive both pleasure and profit from it.

Coleraine, Mass.

For the *New England Apiarian*.

Hints in Bee Culture, Part 1.

J. E. POND, JR.

The new beginner in bee culture, no matter how much he may have studied theory, or how well he may be read in apicultural literature, will constantly find more or less stumbling-blocks in his way, when he begins bee keeping practically and experimentally. In the beginning of bee keeping, the first thing to which his attention is called, is the choice of a location for his apiary. In

this fortunately, he will find no difference of opinion among experts, although in many other matters of equal if not of greater importance, he will find nearly as many differences of opinion, as there are persons to express them. In the choice of the location, the hives should if possible face the south; the north and west sides of the apiary, being sheltered by a tight board fence, or a hedge of some sort, from the severe winds and storms which invariably accompany a New England winter. I prefer to set my hives directly on the ground, giving a smooth, clear space in front, covered with well packed sawdust or sand; for I have learned from my bees that they take special pride in having a nice front yard, and great pains to keep it clean and tidy, so much so that they will work a long time to pull up and get rid of a blade of grass that has forced its way through its covering. If stands are preferred, there should be one for each hive, and they should not be over 6 or 8 inches high, with a slanting board, leading from the alighting board to the ground. If possible an apiary should be located on level ground, but if such cannot conveniently be found, the slope should be upward, rather than downward, so that the laden bees may not be obliged to fly up hill, when coming home to deposit the loads of nectar they have gathered by so much labor. Having made choice of the location for the apiary, the next thing is to select a hive; and here much difference of opinion exists. Deep and shallow hives, both have their advocates; but all admit that a frame-hive of some sort, is

indispensable. The days of the old-box-hive, and hollow-log-gum, have passed never to return, the frames having so conclusively proved their superiority, that no well-informed bee keeper can ever be induced to use any other than a frame hive. Without discussing the merits or demerits of any of the various forms of frame hives in use, I will say right here, that I advise all to use the Standard Langstroth form of hive, holding 10 frames 17 5-8 x 9 1-8 inches, inside dimensions; the exterior measurements of this hive, when made plain of 7-8 stock, is 20 1-4 x 16 x 10 inches. I have used such hives for years, wintering on the summer stands, and obtained the best of results from them. While perhaps others may give just as good results, none can give better, and I would not change to any other form. I will say right here, that I keep bees simply as a means of pleasant exercise, and have no hives or supplies of any kind for sale, consequently have no "axe to grind," in giving any advice which may be found in any articles which I may write, but in giving advice or information, I am actuated solely by a desire to aid some novice, by giving him the benefit of my experience. The matter of stocking an apiary is of much importance, and here the rule, "make haste slowly," applies with full force. The new beginner had far better commence with two or three colonies at first, and when he learns how to manage THEM successfully, he is ready to increase as much and as largely as he may choose. It is difficult without knowing the peculiar and particular characteristics of an individual,

to advise the course for him to pursue. If however he really desires to learn as much as possible, in the shortest time, I should advise him to purchase in early spring, two or three colonies, (not more the first year,) in common box-hives, and transfer them into his frames; thus he will gain confidence in handling bees, and learn a certain amount of practical knowledge, that he cannot well gain in any other manner. I would advise him to purchase the common black bees, and then italianize them; this can be easily and cheaply done, by purchasing queens from some reliable dealer, and introducing them into his black colonies; by this means he can learn much by observation and at once, that he might otherwise be a long time in acquiring. If the prospective bee keeper is a person of means, and desires simply to keep a few bees for the "fun of the thing," I should advise him to purchase italian colonies in frame hives in the first place, from some honest bee keeper, and thus obtain the best from the least trouble. I advise the italians, for they have been proved, by over 20 years experience with them, to be far superior to the common black or german bee, and while much is being claimed just at present, for the Cyprians and Holy Land bees, it must not be forgotten that they are a new variety to us, and have not yet been fully proved; so on the principle of "proving all things, and holding fast to that which is good," I advise for the present the italians, as having been fully tested, and not found wanting in the essentials required, to make a superior variety of honey bee. The beginner having start-

ed in his new venture, must now carefully and thoroughly study some of the various works, written especially on the subject of bee culture; and among such I would recommend, Langstroth on the hive and honey bee, A. I. Root's A. B. C. of Bee Culture, and Prof. Cook's Manual. By giving careful attention to these, or some of them, he will gain a theoretical knowledge of the subject; but what is of more importance still, he should subscribe for and read, some of the journals devoted especially to the interests of apiculture, particularly the NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN, as it is devoted to the special interests of apiculture in the New England States. From books and journals he will gain the theory, but for the practice, one must go to the bees themselves, and learn of them, and I assure you if you do go to them, with an earnest desire to obtain knowledge in regard to the hidden mysteries of their hives; you will find them at all times ready and willing to allow you to gain all the information you desire, provided always that your demands on them are made in a proper manner, otherwise they will be apt to resent your interference, and make it their business to send you about your business, and practically show you how pleasure may be mingled with pain. I have intended the above article as introductory simply, and in those which may follow, I intend to give some plain simple directions, as the result of seventeen years experience in handling bees, by following which the novice can in a short time, become quite proficient, and successful as an apiarist.

Foxboro, Mass., Dec. 1882.

For the New England Apiarian.

Size of Frame.

JAMES B. MASON.

Many are becoming interested in bee culture in our State, and the first question that arises is, which is the best bee hive; now this is a secondary question; the first question should be what size frame, all things considered, had I better adopt; well says one, what do you mean by all things considered? I mean taking into consideration the advantages and disadvantages of any particular size frame for instance, its advantages and disadvantages in the following points, first, in its allowing the bees to be packed in the best form for winter; second, its allowing one story to be used above another; third, of the regular size frame taking in our regular size section boxes, so as to hang them in an upper story; fourth, the good or bad qualities in the matter of the bees taking possession of the boxes; fifth, its form for breeding up fast in early spring; and last but not least, the amount of frames of one size in use; this has a good deal more to do with the choice of a frame than it seems to at first thought, if we have a hive holding frames of a different size from the regular frame we use, we cannot help it by exchanging combs, so it has to beat its own track and as a rule we cannot produce so much surplus from it; then in selling and buying we have to sacrifice in price, unless our bees are in frames of the size most in use: let me illustrate here in the State of Maine. Our sleighs are all made (or mostly so) of the same width, so everything runs

along smoothly, although there are a great many different styles, as long as the width is the same no confusion occurs, but you let a man get up a new style and make it 3 inches wider, or narrower than the standard width, and you see at once, that sleigh has always got to beat its own track without any help, and will always be hard work to make time, as it will run hard following those of a different size, it may have many advantages and might run easier than the standard size, if the sleighs of the State could all be changed, but that is impossible; now the question arises, will the advantage over balance the disadvantage of so many being in use of a different size; it is very similar with our hives and frames; no matter how many styles of hives we have as long as they take the same size frame, but let us get a different size frame and we shall at once find out our bees are not salable, and we have to sell at very low prices, as the man that buys cannot afford to pay a fair price for bees in an odd size frame; right here let me tell a short story to illustrate, two years ago I went to see a bee keeper who was keeping bees quite extensively, and was using an odd size frame fancying that by 1 or 1 1-2 inch different sizes, he was securing some very decided advantages, I told him he had better put all his new swarms as he let them swarm themselves, into the style of frame I used, as it was more in use than the one he had, he told me he never could sell a swarm any higher in a frame hive than he could in an old box hive, I told him that was the reason his frame being an odd size, but he

could not understand that that would over-balance the supposed advantage of his frame. The past season my orders being so large, I was short of bees, I went to see my friend to see if I could purchase some bees of him, he had plenty of bees and wanted to sell them, but there they was in those frames, so I says my friend I shall have to purchase these bees at box hive prices, or not at all, as I shall have to transfer the bees, and throw away the hives, or let you have them back. I should rather have paid him two hundred dollars for twenty stocks in frames such as I used, than one hundred dollars as they were, he thought it hard, but made up his mind to manage differently in future, and not sell any more bees at half price by their being in odd size frames. Again do we see the necessity of a uniform frame; in the manufacture of supplies, in odd sizes we are always bothered, and have to wait until we are all out of patience after ordering, and many times through lack of explanation get things wrong, while with standard goods, they are made ahead all ready to ship and are always all right, and can be made of course cheaper. It is of vital importance at the present time that this question of size of frame be thoroughly discussed and settled as far as possible before our State is filled up with odd size frames; it looks to me as though the many sizes might be concentrated into three, viz., deepest, 12 to 14 inches, medium, 11 1-4, and shallow, 9 1-8. Now we have had but one of the above sizes introduced to any great extent in our State, that is the deepest one, or in other words the American; has it given

satisfaction? is there any one that has tried all three sizes? if there is, will they please stand up and tell us their experience. 15 or 20 years ago, this question was debated upon through the Bee Journal by the ablest writers on bee culture in the Western States, the debate run about even on the shallow 9 1-8, and the medium 11 1-4 frames, the deep frame was considered to deep, and did not have many advocates; the preference was generally given to the Langstroth or 9 1-8 frame by the Journals, and most of the leading bee keepers on account of so many more being in use, and since that time the shallow frame or Langstroth, has been steadily gaining public favor, and at the present time there is doubtless nearly as many bees in Langstroth as all others combined and is considered the standard frame of the United States. Do the bee keepers of Maine require a different size frame from that used in the Western States. I do not propose to discuss this question in this article, but wish to bring it fairly before the bee keepers of Maine, hoping it may lead to a lively discussion, and help us to settle on a uniform standard frame.

Mechanic Falls, Me., Dec. 11, '82.

For the New England Apiarian.

A New Way of Transferring Bees.

W. W. DUNHAM.

Last summer I made a call upon a neighboring bee keeper, living about a mile and a half from my place, and in looking over his bees we discovered one colony that gave unmistakable evidence of being infested with moths, but

as they were in one of the old patent (Torry) moth traps of a hive, we could not examine them. I told him he would loose that swarm of bees if he did not look out for them, and that if they were mine, I would transfer them into a frame hive. He said that he had no time to bother with them and nothing to do with. I offered to exchange work with him and transfer them, but although he wanted it done and would give me my own price for my services, he did not want it done bad enough to pay me back in work. Having a large farm myself and the care of my own bees, besides my grapery and other small fruit, I told him I could not work out for money, and so the subject was dropped between us. I hardly thought of the matter again, until about the first of September, when as my men were at work near the house they called me, saying that a swarm of bees had gone over, I hurried after them and soon found a little black swarm clustered on a bush within about six rods of my bee stand. When I saw them I knew at once where they came from, and told my folks that it was the little swarm of my neighbors that I had had the talk about transferring; I got a hive and transferred them from the bush to the hive with complete success, no hive to knock to pieces and no comb to patch up. I have been reading the past season in the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, of Heddon's new method of transferring, but I think my plan is a little ahead. Just go around to your neighbors and talk the matter over before the bees, then go home and after waiting awhile the bees will get tired of looking for

you, leave their old box hives and come to look you up, when all you have got to do is to transfer them to your own hives. Now really I do think it is a little singular that after my neighbor had laughed as much as he has about my method of handling bees, using frame hives, division boards, foundation, feeders and smokers, that his bees should think so much more favorably of it and come so far for the sake of making a home with me. I have given them frames of brood and honey, a good Italian queen and have fed them up until they are a good stock of bees and are in good condition for winter. Really I believe they knew there was corn in Egypt.

North Paris, Me.

For the New England Apiarian.

Feeding Bees.

WM. McLAUGHLIN, M. D.

Every apiarian, in the management of his bees, either wishes to increase the number of his colonies, or to procure the greatest amount of surplus honey for his own use or the market, and at the same time to insure success in having them go through the winter and spring, in good condition. Either one or all of these propositions are largely, if not wholly dependent on the amount of honey stored in the hive; for if there is none, or but little, there can be no sustenance for young bees, or for the owner, nor can they live through the winter without sufficient food. It is generally conceded that the forage for bees, especially in the middle and southern portions of our State is getting

inadequate for their needs to furnish much surplus honey, while many colonies cannot even secure enough for their winters use. What shall we do to remedy this deficiency? Some will say sow or cultivate more honey producing vegetation. This view, to my mind, is not tenable, for many persons have not the land, or the means, while others who have can make much more profit by cultivating other kinds of crops on their land. Besides the plan of supplying, forage is slow and uncertain, as well as giving the neighboring bees as much advantage as your own. The natural and reasonable course of improving the strength and profitableness of our domestic animals, is by extra feeding of suitable food; so in the culture of bees, when the object is the increase of swarms, we can feed in spring and during the breeding season to render them more prolific. Also to stimulate late breeding in the fall, judicious feeding is necessary. And so he who keeps bees for the purpose of obtaining surplus honey, should practice feeding of good sugar syrup during the honey gathering season, that it may be mixed with that from the flowers. I will vouch that the honey thus produced will be as good as that from any other source. And lastly, for wintering, no reasonable bee keeper will deny but what proper feeding is indispensable when they have not sufficient stores to carry them through the winter and spring. And to this end I would suggest that after the swarming season is over, the outside frames be taken out, leaving only five or six in the middle, if the brood will admit of it,

and place division boards close to the remaining frames, then feed them so that the bees will fill the middle combs with honey farther towards the bottom. Then they will have the winters stores directly above them, which is the natural and true process to ensue safe wintering.

Harmony, Me.

For the New England Apiarian.

Advice to Young Bee Keepers.

W. T. STEWART.

Believing that the first number of the NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN will fall into the hands of many who have not had much experience in scientific bee keeping; and many more, who have had no experience, but who may contemplate going into the business; I feel that I can "kill two birds with one stone," by contributing my mite to help start the APIARIAN, and also in helping new beginners in bee keeping; but few, outside of those who read the bee journals have much idea of the magnitude of modern bee keeping, or of the rapid and gigantic strides, that have been made within the last few years in the knowledge of the heretofore mysteries of the nature and workings of the little busy bee. How do they know of the great improvements that have been made in a short time as helps in scientific bee keeping, "and more" the average of men and women, have but little knowledge of the enormous profits in dollars and cents, there is in it, besides it is one of the most pleasing and healthy of occupations, and is well suited as an occupation for ladies, and men who are

not physically adapted to pursuits of a more laborious nature. There is health, pleasure, and money, in bee keeping when rightly followed, and now to those who contemplate bee keeping, let me say, that in order to be successful, you must first learn what to do and than do it at precisely the right time and right way, learn first the nature and instinct of the bee, what it will do under any given circumstances, when it does it, and why, and then work to help it onward, suiting your work to the nature of the bee, for you can't change a bees nature or instinct, but by understanding its nature you have it in a measure under your control. To illustrate, taking it for granted that you have your bees in a moveable frame hive, as you should have, you have one that is weak in numbers and another that is strong, and then you know that there has got to be a certain amount of warmth in a hive in order to hatch the egg and that the weak colony has not bees enough to produce that warmth, consequently there will be no young bees coming on, and the old ones are dying off with age until there is none left in early spring; but the strong colony can spare some bees and yet have enough; you lift a frame of just hatching brood with all the bees that are on it, being sure that the queen is not on that frame, then push the frames apart so as to make room in the weak hive in the center, for the frame of brood and bees taken from the strong one, hang it in gently, cover up your hives, and all is well for a time, give them more help from time to time, from strong colonies; by so doing you have saved your weak colony that would

have died without your help, when now ten chances to one, it will be one of your best in a short time. So much for knowledge. This is only one illustration in a thousand ways that we can help bees, but space will allow no more at present. In order to be a successful bee keeper, you must have "bee sense" which you can get by reading books and journals devoted to bee culture, quicker, better and cheaper than in any other way. For a trifle of expense you learn by a few hours reading, what it took years and even lifetimes of experimenting and study for the writers to find out, consequently you can begin with the same knowledge of bee culture that the oldest and best learned have after years of study and practice. Then the very first thing to do is to buy a few good works on bee culture in book form, and at same time subscribe for one or more of the journals devoted to the same. **THE NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN** will no doubt be one of the journals to subscribe for, and as many more as circumstances will admit of; in almost any one number of any bee journal you will learn of something that will be worth the price of a whole years subscription. Next procure the very best movable frame hive that is to be had, for a great deal depends on what style of hive you use, whether are successful, or not, there are several styles of hives in use that are good, while there are many other styles in use that are not worth snuff; the best hives in use now are not patented, no part of them. After the books, journals and hives, you next want the best strain of bees; and then comes one of the things

of great importance, the location for your apiary. for with books, bee sense, hives, bees and everything else, if you don't have flowers in abundance suited to bees, you can't be successful; but almost any place can be made good by judiciously planting such honey plants, as figwort, motherwort, mellilott, catnip, etc., when you have all these then you want to get your honey in the best shape for market, either in one pound sections or extracted. Bee keepers as a general thing are very generous, and it will pay you to visit some of the successful ones, and if possible, stop with them a while and see how they do things, even if you have to board a short time with them, it will be money well used. Write to scientific bee men for information about things that you don't fairly understand, and be sure to enclose stamps sufficient to meet the cost of a reply. Attend bee conventions, and ask questions to be answered by men of experience. Loose no opportunity to learn from others. With plenty of "bee sense" and pluck, success will follow.

Eminence, Ky., Dec. 11, 1882.

☞ Sample copies of the **NEW ENGLAND APIARIAN** will be sent free to any person. Any one intending to get up a club can have sample copies sent to the persons they desire to interview, by sending the names to this office.

☞ The February No. of the **APIARIAN**, will contain an article, entitled "The Ideal Apiary," by E. A. Thomas of Coleraine, Mass., which every bee-keeper in New England ought to read, and many other articles from eminent writers.

CONVENTIONS.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
Maine Bee-Keepers' Association.

The next meeting of the Maine Bee-Keepers' Association, will be held at Dexter, Feb. 8th and 9th, 1883.

A large attendance of bee-keepers' from different parts of the State is expected, and it is hoped that it may be one of the most interesting meetings ever held by the association. A large exhibit of hives and implements used in the apiary are expected, and all attending the meeting are earnestly requested to bring something to help make a good display. Any articles sent to the Secretary, will be placed on exhibition, and cared for free of charge.

The following is an imperfect outline of the programme for the two days. First day:—Secretary's report; Treasurer's report; reports of Vice President's of the different counties represented; President's address; choosing a committee to award preferences on articles exhibited; reading of essays, and discussions. Second day:—Election of Officers; report of committee on articles exhibited; reading of essays, and discussions. Essays are expected on the following subjects: feeding bees; how to make bee-keeping profitable; artificial pasturage; the coming bee, etc., etc.

WM. HOYT, Secretary.

Ripley, Maine.

A full account of the proceedings of the Maine Bee-Keepers' Association, will appear in the February Number of the APIARIAN.

SELECTIONS FROM OUR LETTER BOX.

Six years ago I found a swarm of bees in the woods, I carried them home and have not taken any pains with them, but I have sold \$35.00 worth from them and lost two swarms, and I now have four stocks left. I intend the coming season to improve my bees all I can, I will subscribe for THE ENGLAND APIARIAN. Enclosed I send you the names of bee-keepers in this vicinity.

J. S. MORGAN.

Buckfield, Me., Dec. 28, 1882.

HONEY AND BEESWAX MARKET.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 3, 1883.

HONEY—1-2 lb. sections 30 cents; 1 lb. sections, 20 and 25 cents; 2 lb. sections, 20 cents.

WAX—Very scarce and worth 30 to 35 cents.

CROCKER & BLAKE, 57 Chatham St.

☞ All articles for publication must reach us by the 5th of each month.

☞ Articles for publication must be written on a separate piece of paper from items of business.

☞ Advertisements intended for the APIARIAN must reach this office by the 5th of each month to insure insertion.

☞ Subscribe for the APIARIAN at once, do not put it off, as it will be issued regularly on the 15th of each month.

☞ We want bee-keepers from all parts of the country, to send us articles for publication, such as report of their bees, and anything that they think will be interesting reading.

Habits of Bees in the South.

From the American Bee Journal.

A correspondent of the *Washington Gazette*, who has a very imaginative and fertile brain, tries to explain and account for a foolish story that has been again and again published in the papers all over the country, about bees losing their inclination to store honey, when they are placed in the South where they experience but little of winter. The story, so often told, is as foolish as it is untrue, and the *Gazette* correspondent will try in vain to account for that which is itself untrue, as well as unreasonable. The intelligent bee-keepers will be amused and at the same time disgusted, at the following, which is received as truth by thousands of persons who know nothing more about bees, than that they use their sting as a means of defense, and that the honey they store up is delicious. The item referred to is as follows:

THE RECKLESS BEE.—An experimenter in Southern agriculture told me the following history of Northern bees in the South. He took a colony of the little gratuitous honey-makers down to Florida. The first year they revelled, thrived, and stored honey nearly all the unvaried summer time. But the second year a few of the more reflective bees evidently turned the thing over in their minds thus: "This country has no winter to provide against; what is the use of laying up honey when the flowers blossom all the year round?" These bees exerted enough influence among their friends to keep a good

many bees from laying by any sweet merchandise the second year of their exile.

But the prudential instinct so strong in the little insect, prevailed with the majority. They evidently said to themselves: "Perhaps this has been an exceptional year. Next season may bring cold and snow and dearth of flowers." So there was quite a stock of honey laid by on the second year, in spite of a few strikers. But by the third year the conviction had evidently thoroughly penetrated the bee mind that it was foolish to lay up in a land of eternal blossom. They made just enough to last from day to day, abandoned themselves to living from hand to mouth as recklessly as does any tropic-born butterfly.

☞ The APIARIAN will be issued on the 15 of each month regularly.

☞ Our advertising rates are cheap, any one will find the APIARIAN to be a good advertising medium.

☞ Send us the yearly subscription price of 75 cents for the APIARIAN, it will more than repay you, and also help to keep a lively bee paper in the New England States. If you should not wish to subscribe, please hand it to some one you think would.

☞ We have just completed a circular and price list of Apiarian Supplies, containing 28 pages, for Mr. James B. Mason, of this place. Mr. Mason is a reliable man, and any one who wishes supplies for their apiary should not fail to send for his price list.

THE
New England Apiarian,

PUBLISHED BY

W. W. MERRILL,

P. O Box 100, Mechanic Falls, Maine.

Published on the 15th of each month.

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