



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

National bee journal. Vol. IV, No.8 October, 1873

Des Moines, Iowa: [s.n.], October, 1873

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/7UGQJF4GQZU4L8L>

<http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/NKC/1.0/>

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

THE NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE.

Vol. IV.]

DES MOINES, OCTOBER, 1873.

[No. 8.

SOUTHERN DEPARTMENT.

Letter from Florida.

Yours of the 21st received, and I thank you very much for the easy way you have let me down from the dilemma I was in for the loss of queens you sent me. I felt quite mortified to think I had lost the queen you had sent me, though for the loss I can't blame myself, as they were quite feeble when I received them, and died in the cage after I had introduced them; but I have three fine ones which were doing finely when I last examined them. I am confident I should have saved the fourth one had not my bees been so full of fight and robbery at the time they were received, as that deterred me from finding the old queens.

And now for news. We have had a hard time, as the parrot said when the monkey pulled his feathers all out. We had, on the 19th, one of the severest gales I ever experienced, prostrating trees, houses, fences, etc., and doing great damage to the cotton crop; but, to my great surprise, not a frame Hive was disturbed by it. I can hear of only two frame Hives being moved, and they by trees being blown against

them, while hundreds of box hives were blown over, and many swarms of bees lost in consequence. That is a point I don't suppose you had taken into consideration, but it will do to blow on.

Old friend, the more I see of the frame Hive the better I like it. Then, you know, it took but a glance to convince me they were no humbug, and I am discovering new points to admire every little while, and I would here say I think this an opportune moment to introduce new enterprises in the State. Cotton culture has proved so disastrous the people are beginning to open their eyes to inquire what they must do to be saved, and I think now is a good time to cry, "Bees! Bees! Turn ye! Turn ye from the error of your ways and invest in bees!" So, old friend, I hope we will have a good time this winter, though financially it looks rather discouraging, but it is a splendid time to invest if a man has some capital. Be sure and bring along that grape man, if you can. Lands suitable for vineyards can be purchased for a trifle, and in a few years a man will find himself independent in the culture of the grape, and so of a great many other enterprises. But I won't write more on that subject, as I hope to

see you soon, and we can then review the whole ground. I hope you will be able to interest a great many of your friends in the great inducements Florida holds out to immigrants, as men of means and energy are what is needed here to develop the inexhaustible resources of the State.

Yours, truly and fraternally,

G. K. CLARK.

Tallahassee, Florida, Sept. 29, 1873.

Concerning a Certain Secret and Other Things not so much so.

If our Wolverine friend, who blew his horn so well on page 165, June number of the NATIONAL, has seen the first number of "The Bee Keepers' Directory," he can tune up and give us another blast. We are told in that publication some things that are new as well as some that are old. We are told that it is possible to furnish our bees, in the idle season, with a certain "food," and with honey, and that they will partake of both, but the former article will go direct by way of the bee's stomach to his wax pouches, and will then be worked up into comb, while the latter will go at the same time to his honey bag to be deposited in the comb cells as soon as formed. This reads to me much like the lecture on physiology that described a man's throat as being formed of two tubes, one of which conducted the solid food to the stomach, and the other one carried the liquids, and there was a trap door between, which covered the tube that was not in use. The student's reply, "that the trap door must play mighty fast when he ate mush and milk," might

with equal propriety be given to the bee-feeding theory.

We are not told in this number of the Directory "how to increase one colony to one hundred in a single season." That is reserved for a future number, I suppose. But we are told not to run counter to the "laws which govern the instincts of the honey bee," which is good advice. Also, "to keep our stocks always strong," which is better. But, in order to force the bees to work in boxes, "restrict the breeding room to two or three combs." Now, I would like very much to know how we are to keep colonies strong that have but two combs to breed in. In fact, I am mixed up on several statements in the Directory, and would be exceedingly gratified if Brother M. would add to his "light, wholesome food for bee-keepers," enough leaven of explanation as to make it easily digestible even to a mental dyspeptic.

As to wintering bees, the fact is that most of the bees that died last winter in this neighborhood were fatally diseased by December 1st. And several colonies, to my knowledge, remained healthy all winter, with upward ventilation to their hives, and a good deal of it, too.

Nor can the loss be attributed altogether to the honey being poor. In fact, I see no possible chance, in the present state of our knowledge, to trace the effects certainly to their causes. But the experiments of intelligent bee-keepers all over the country will, I think, certainly establish something. In so many hunting for the right mode, it will not always be unknown, and the apiarian of the future will smile at the

remembrance of our present methods, even as we deride the "Brimstone" era.

CORN CRACKER.

Maysville, Ky., Sept. 15, 1873.

NORTHERN DEPARTMENT

For the National Bee Journal.

"In Union there is Strength."

I would like very well to give your readers some of my experience in bee keeping, for the benefit of the novice. I always was a great lover of honey, and a greater admirer of the bee that gathered the honey. When I was a boy I bought some bees, that is now about twenty years ago, and I would sit by the hour and watch them go in and out, not so much on a week day but on Sundays, for I was a poor boy and had to earn my own living since I was seven years old, I lost my mother at that time, and I used to lay down by the hives at evening when my days work was done to listen to their pleasant hum, and to see them run about as if they were looking for a miller or any other enemy that might happen to be there. I have always been lucky with bees. Why? Because I attended to them often. I never had a swarm go the woods in my life, and I have not lost one with worms in all that time, nor have I lost many in winter. Boys and girls, and yes old fogies too, see the bees often if you want luck, as you choose to call it. The word luck applies more to the last named bee keepers, for the boys and girls are being thought better than to think it is all luck and chance with bees, any more than any thing else. Now I

will just state that I never killed a colony of bees with brimstone, they are too faithful a servant to be killed in so cruel a manner. When I first commenced to keep bees I knew nothing about the movable frame hive, nor a bee book, nor a bee journal, but now I have both.

I have a particular friend that has been keeping bees for several years, and has made a good deal of money at it, and by the way he is a very good bee keeper, although he has been using the common hives until quite recently, he has commenced to change his bees to one of the very best movable frame hives now in use in this country, and, in my opinion, the best in the world, at any rate it is a number one hive, and he is taking the bee journal, and he has commenced to change his bees from the common kind to those nice yellow ones called Italians or Ligurian. Well he has bought three of those nice queens at reasonable rates, and he tells me he gets more honey by a good deal, and five cents a pound for his honey that his stored in frames more than he can get for that in boxes. Now the whole secret is just here, his wife fusses with him all the while about spending so much time and money with his bees, she says the old way is the best, etc. Now the poor man is almost discouraged trying to keep bees, and talks some times of quitting the business. No, friend, I would not do that, for it will be the same if you should engage in any other branch of business. Keep right on, and maybe she will change her mind after a while. What I want is this for the good wives of our bee keepers to

help their husbands all they can, and I hope there is none of our friend bee keepers that would refuse to help the women, for as a general thing they have enough to do without working in apiary, unless they can help back at some of her part of the work. The best help that I have is my better half, but friends, please remember, she never says now don't you go and send off another two dollars for that bee journal, and another for that queen, and a fifty cents or a dollar, as the case may be, for a bee book. Keeping it in her mind "In union there is strength."

Well, says my friends wife, we can't sell strained honey. No, I don't expect you can, as long as people can get such a good article in the comb as we have now a days. But remember the strained honey had reference to is the extracted honey. Well continue to call it strained honey to every one you see, or your husband might sell it, and that would be bad, would'nt it, yes, you would have to acknowledge that you was sorry, and that is so hard to do, yes and then I would not have a fuss all the time and that is so pleasant to me, so if you will go on down hill, while there is life there will be strife, etc.

Well now I think you are too hard on me, Mister, the old man has been feeding the bees sugar, yes I know it, and I saw him give his hogs a basket full of corn the other day, and he says he does every day throw out some corn to the hogs, oh, well he has to do that to make them grow. Well what did he feed the bees for in July or August. Well he said it was a small late swarm,

and a little feed then when there was no honey for them in the flow-ers, would keep them breeding and making comb, and when the buck-wheat came on they would be strong and lay up enough to winter on, was that it, yes he said so, and I know its so myself, now lets look at that poor swarm, well, I declare, who would have thought it, the hives are full and the bees are at work in the surplus boxes, so I must acknowledge I was sorry, and we will feed all the bees next time, it helps them so much, and not make a fuss about a pound or two of sugar. Yes, that is the way with us, sometimes we are too fast or too slow, as the case may be, so be sure your right, and then go ahead, but remember in union there is strength.

A. J. HOOVER.

Plymouth, Pa.

Bee-Keeping.

Please copy the enclosed article, taken from the *Farmers' Journal*, it being my views and experience to a dot. And I will herewith give you an account of my summer's work among the beess. I would say, if men will persist in keeping bees on the old plan, why not show up the difference in the profits between their styles, and those who use a movable comb hive and extractor. I have told my neighbors the profits I have derived from my bees, and, although they would believe me on every other point of business, they must needs doubt my word when it comes to bee-keeping, and, in some instances, I have been compelled, in order to convince them of the truth of my statement, to show them, from

week to week, the profits I was making, or, rather, that of my bees, from one good, strong stock in the spring. I have now sixteen in prime order. Of course, I have been aiming for bees, not honey; but, without the aid of the extractor, I could not, you know, have increased my stocks so fast in June, as with "Gex," the writer of the article I send. The honey harvest was good. I do not think it could be better anywhere; and, acting according to your advice, in the May number of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, I sent you an order for an extractor. Very soon I discovered it was needed, for my bees were piling in the honey to the great detriment of the queen. I therefore used it freely, extracting all the honey from the brood chambers, and, to use your own language, "How the little fellows did work!" They fairly flew from early morn till dewy eve, and from ten A. M., till four P. M., they would come home so heavily laden with their precious loads that they actually could not get to the lighting board, but would fall on the ground sometimes several feet from the hive. Taking another hint from one of your many invaluable lessons to beginners, I gave them assistance by placing a board slanting from the hive to the ground, one which they would wearily but carefully crawl to the entrance. After that they would seem to be inspired with new courage to unload the sweet burden of honeyed treasure, working ever without ceasing in the cause of honey-gathering while the sun shines bright, or laboring faithfully in the harvest hours—a fitting lesson for the many more intelligent bee-ings

with whom we come in daily contact. Besides the stocks I have two hundred and nine pounds, beautiful, pure, golden honey, for my family's use. I have not tried to beat friend Hosmer, but I have gained so much from the little labor and expense that I no longer wonder at the outcry of bee-keepers in the loss of their faithful friends the past two winters, for I now see the great amount of profit they have gained from them. If my bees should die this winter I have lost nothing, having sold ten stocks besides the honey. I feel quite well paid and will again try the most fascinating business in which I was ever occupied.

The JOURNAL has been most useful to the beginner as well as the more advanced apiarian, for in each number of late I have found seasonable hints and advice, which have saved both time and money—many times the amount of cost per year—and, like our friend in Tennessee, if compelled to do without a movable comb hive, I would most assuredly not keep bees. You are correct, "Gex," whoever you may be. If men will be so short-sighted as not to keep up with the times, in apiculture as in other pursuits of industry, why, let them go ahead, or get behind us, as we are wont to say at times when a certain gentleman makes his appearance, whose name we will not here mention. I am anxious to learn how much honey that old won'an will take to the Indianapolis Exposition. She beats the Dutch, and I am only an American.

I will close, friend Atkinson and lady, regretting much the intelligence of your leaving Indiana. Our

acquaintance has been very pleasant, and to me most beneficial. Be assured that the best wishes of myself and family will follow you to your home in the beautiful land of the South.

JOHN G. GATES.

Indiana.

BEE KEEPING.

Last winter one of my neighbors proposed to me to buy out his stock of bees, as he had lost four-fifths of his colonies and was disheartened with the prospects of bee-keeping. I proposed to him to buy one-half his stock, transfer to moveable comb hives, and let him keep the other half in box hives as usual, and see which lot would give the best return. He accepted, and I brought to my Apiary five colonies about March 1st. he keeping six colonies.

I paid him his own price for them, (\$5.00 per colony,) transferred them, and now for the result so far. During the month of June, I took from my five hives 315 pounds of honey for \$107.00, and one colony of bees for \$10.00—one natural swarm left while I was absent from home; so that I have 15 colonies from that lot all in good condition, and a considerable quantity of honey in 2d stories to be taken next month if not sooner.

Yesterday I went over to see my neighbor and ventured to ask, "How are your bees doing?"

"First rate," said he. "I've got twenty-four stands or rather I had; for I killed one last week. They got to robbing. About a bushel of bees was about the hive fighting, so I killed them to save the honey."

"Got any surplus?" I ventured. "Any box honey?"

"Well, no. They don't work in the caps to do any good this year."

I went with him and examined as best we could, his entire stock. The late swarms had made but little headway in comb building; the old ones were very heavy but seemed rather weak. The early swarms were full of comb and bees. The condition of all old stocks in this neighborhood is very critical, unless the honey was extracted from the brood combs in June. Honey was very abundant during that month and the bees filled up their brood combs so rapidly as to take up nearly all the room that should be used for brood. Consequently hives that were not extracted, last four or five swarms, and are worthless for wintering.

This, then, proves the great value of the Honey Extractor to the apiarian, as by no other means can he so well keep his colonies in good condition in a season when honey is very abundant.

With this lot of bees spoken of, I was more troubled with loss of queens, than I remember to have been ever before. Colonies in my apiary became queenless two or three times, though supplied with young fertile queens again and again. One colony was found to be queenless on July 1st, which had receive three queens, and each one had laid eggs in the combs. With better luck (or shall I say better management) in this regard, I might have shown my neighbor a still greater contrast between box hive "slip-shod" management and bee-keeping with movable combs.—*Gex.* Aug. 3d, 1873.

Subscribe for the Bee Journal.

The Luxury of Bee-Keeping.

Apiarians are noted, the world over, for their enthusiasm in their favorite pursuit. This really is not without cause. It certainly is a most fascinating study, and has the added merit of having engaged the attention of some of the mythical heroes, as well as the more substantial ones of the olden time. A correspondent of *Our Own Fireside* (English) gives this pleasant reading in relation to the subject :

The luxury of all summer's sweet sensation is to be found when one lies at length in the warm, fragrant grass, soaked with sunshine, aware of regions of blossoming clover and of a high heaven filled with the hum of innumerable bees. It is that happy hum—which seems to the closed eyes as if the silent sunbeams themselves had found a voice and were brimming the bending blue with music as they went about their busy chemistry—that gives the chief charm to the moment; for it tunes the mind to its own key, the murmuring expression of all pleasant things, the cord of sunshine and perfume and flowers. And it is, indeed, the sound of process scarcely less subtle than the sunbeam's own. Of that alchemy by which the limpid drop of sweet insipidity at the root of any petal is transformed to the pungent flavor and viscid drip of honey. Beyond doubt, there is no such eminent sound of gladness in all the world as the buzzing of a bee. It sings of work as a joy and privilege; of a home of plenty and contentment.

Although this burley rover is not our little bee of the hive, but his

saucy, country-cousin, the song of the one is scarcely sweeter than that of the other, while they blend into rarest unison. And well may both be sweet; it is such a pleasant thing to live. There is the hive to furnish, there is the dear nest under-ground. They forget yesterday's rain, they fear not to-morrow's frost; the sun is so warm to-day on their little brown backs, and here is such store of honey. It is true, the humble-bee is much the most dazzling,—he has the prestige of size moreover; but the other may find some favor in his new bronze and gold armor, and his coarse velvet mantle. There are few creatures that can afford to labor in half such array as that, but when the work is so nice one's dress must correspond. It would never do to rumple round rose-leaves, black as a beetle, and expect not only to be heaped with delicacies, but to be entrusted with love-tokens. One cannot be so splended as the moths and sphinxes, who have nothing to do all Summer but to lay eggs among the petals that their offspring may devour them; no, there is work to be done. But though one toils, one has a dignity to maintain; one remembers it readily when he has been made the insignia of royalty; when kings have worn his effigy one cannot forget that he has himself been called the Winged Monarch of the Flowers.

See him now, as he hovers over the small white clover on which he alights, whose sweets are within reach of his little proboscis; or, lost in that great blue bell, swinging it with his motion and his melody; or, burrows deep in the heart of a rose, never rolling there, as it has been

erroneously said, but, collecting the pollen with his pinchers, swims over the flowers while brushing it into the baskets of his hinder legs, and then lights again for a fresh fare, till, laden and regaled, he loudly issues forth, dusty with treasure; the Merovingian kings, who powdered their heads and beards with gold, were no finer fellows than he. But a few months' wear and tear will suffice to tarnish him. By and by the little body will be battered and rusty, the wings will be ragged and worn. One day as he goes home heavily burdened, if no sailing blue-winged swallow have skimmed him up long ago, the flagging flight will fail, a breeze will be too much for him, a rain drop will dash him down; he will fall, and some garden-toad, the focal length of whose vision is exactly the distance to which can dart his tongue, will see a tired bee blundering across the sky, and will make a morsel of him, honey-bag, pollen, and all. Yet that is in the future, far outside the focal length of any bee's vision—that vision which finds creation so fair and himself the center of it, each rose made for him to rifle, and welcome everywhere.

How to Rob Bee-Hives.

A soldier arrived from Savannah, who was through with Sherman tells of the trip, as reported in the *Dayton Journal*: "The boys learned how to rob bee-hives without the penalty of stinging. The plan was to rapidly approach a hive, 'take it up suddenly, and, hoisting it upon the shoulder with the open end behind, run like thunder. The bees

hustle out and fly back to the place where the hive stood. The honey belongs to the boys who win it. A cavelry lieutenant with his squad rode up to a plantation house one day and were pretty crabbedly received by the girls of the house, who desired to know 'Why in thunder you 'uns can't let we 'uns be?' and hoped the devil would get the Yanks. The lieutenant was not very well pleased with his reception, and seeing some tempting looking hives of honey in the yard, he ordered one of his men to hoist one up to him. The hive was handed up in a jiffy, and the lieutenant bidding the gals good-bye, started off with the hive on his shoulder. But the bees came out the wrong way, and swarmed upon the lieutenant and his horse, compelling the former to drop the hive, while the taunting rebel females on the porch clapped their dainty, tiny hands, stamped their little bare feet, and screamed 'goody! goody!! goody!!' until they cried for joy."

The Delaware county, Pa., *American* informs us that in Concord township of that county, a farmer's commenced, in the spring of last year, with sixty hens of the common breed, and two cocks of the Cochin family. From these she raised 350 chickens. During the season she sold eggs to the amount of \$00, and, from September 20 to January 17, she fattened and sold 150 pairs of fowls for \$260—thus receiving for eggs and chickens, \$350. The time occupied in caring for her poultry was about two hours a day. The exercise was healthful, and the change from the monotony of indoor duties was highly pleasing.

AGRICULTURAL.

The Farmer.

BY MARIA S. LADD.

He breathes the air of scented fields,
With lillies and daisies ripe;
His heart is brave, peels young and glad,
Blest in a quiet life,
The sweet content of a cottage home,
And smile of a happy wife.

He delights to view the apple buds,
As they nod o'er the creeping grass,
And the clover beads that wave their cups
On the path he is want to pass,
To watch the cattle graze on the hill,
And seldom sighs alas.

The voice of birds that chirp the day,
And robin's song at morn,
As it skips about on new made hay,
Or scents at tasseled corn,
Is sweetest music, and so to him
Are notes of the dinner horn.

The orchards load and yellow grain,
When the harvest days come on,
Look rich and ripe, and fair a sight
As mañ need look upon;
Whilst mellw sky and glancing sun,
Their richest tints put on.

With hat in hand when eve comes in
He nears the open door,
Lifting his hair from marbled brow,
He crosses the sanded floor;
He hears the hum of the spinning wheel,
And his wife tell her profits o'er.

The winter night, if long, is bright,
For, seated around the fire,
His daughters sing some homely lay,
And knit as the blaze mounts higher,
While his sons read 'loud, or tell their plans
And hopes to their listening sire.

He gives to the poor with willing hand,
And prays for the nations weal,
He casts his vote for the righteous cause,
And his scorn he can't conceal,
For the man is cringing to other men,
Is yet dishonest in his deal.

And he quietly sinks to rest at last,
For his name is little known,
Yet revered by those who miss his voice,
As they sit by thhir hearth alone,
His grave is made by the village church,
And the spot is marked by a stone.

PRAY tell me happy little bee,
How your wings are made,
Did the fairies weave them
In the sunny glade.
Cut of threads of sunshine,
On a magic loom—
Paint them with the morning beams,
Or brightest rays of moon. C. A.

A Piece on Weeds.

Having been requested by an unwary stranger to warn his neighbors that they ought to keep their lands cleaner from these intruders, Mr. Harris proceeds, in the current number of the *Agriculturist*, to perform that duty as follows:

It amused me, however, to be told to "write a piece" for the *Agriculturist* on killing weeds. Nothing would please me better. I have weeds on the brain. I think about weeds, talk about weeds and dream about weeds. If I had to "write a piece," I would certainly select weeds. If I had to preach a sermon, the text would probably be, "I went to the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo! it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof." I think the Squire would give up his pew, and the deacon would suggest the next morning that "there was some dissatisfaction in the church, and that it was thought that a change of climate would be good for me." Write a piece about weeds! What was the old gentleman thinking about? Does

he want to buy my farm? Does he want this neighborhood to become too hot for me? The deacon has already threatened to "write a piece" for the *Agriculturist*, pointing out the weak spots in my system of farming. The deacon has been talking the matter over with some of the neighbors. Last fall I had two or three hundred bushels of mangals frozen in the ground. This is to be one of the charges. They forgot that I saved three thousand bushels. Then I had an acre of turnips frozen in the ground. But saved four or five acres that would yield eight or nine hundred bushels per acre. The charge, in brief, is: "He knows how to raise good crops, but does not know how to take care of them." This is letting me off pretty easy. I could make out a better case. On the whole, I think I will follow the old gentleman's advice, and write a "piece" about weeds. The weather is very hot, and "composing" is hard work, but I will try my hand at a short "composition."

A weed is a plant growing where you do not want it to grow. Thistles are not weeds when grown, as they are in France, to make perfume. The thistles growing in the deacon's wheat are weeds. He does not want them there. In you have six plants of corn in a hill where you only want four, two of them are weeds. A dead weed is not a weed. A growing weed pumps up water out of the ground. The weeds in an acre of the deacon's clover pump up more water in a day than all his animals drink in a month. Weeds propagate faster than rats. Yesterday they shot two and scared a doz-

en. Next year they will come back again. The deacon kills a hundred of his weeds and buries a thousand. Next spring they will come up by the million. You can't get rid of weeds unless you kill them. If you do not kill them, they will kill you. They are worse than foot rot in sheep. They spread faster than caterpillars on currant bushes, or than the canker worms on apple trees. Some of the orchards in this neighborhood look as though they had been sprinkled with kerosene and set fire to. The worms have eaten off every leaf. Some farmers keep off the insects by putting tar bands around the trunks of the trees in the spring; some don't. They think it is of no use fighting the worms. Some farmers think it is of no use killing the weeds. It is natural for the soil to produce weeds. They say you *can't* kill them. The deacon does not *say* weeds can't be killed, but he does not try to kill them. He hoes his corn. I don't hoe my corn I hoe the weeds. I would kill the weeds if there was no corn. I am not sure that the deacon would. The deacon never summer-fallows. He fall-fallows. He never tries to make the weeds grow. He tries to smother them up for a few months. He does not kill the roots. He does not make the weed seeds grow and then kill the young plants. The weeds on his farm are getting worse and worse. My farm used to be worse than his; now some of it is cleaner than his. I am fighting the weeds. He lets them grow, and is waiting for something to turn up. There are thousands of farmers doing the same thing. The weeds cost us more than all our State, national

and local taxes; more than all our schools, churches and newspapers. They are more expensive than children's boots and ladies' bonnets. They are as bad as cigars and fast horses. They horse may break his neck and you will get rid of him; but the weeds will stick tighter than a mortgage, and run up faster than compound interest or a grocery bill. They are like bad habits. You must not tamper with them. No half-way measures will answer. The only way to stop using tobacco is to stop. They only way to kill weeds is to kill them.

I hope the old gentleman will be pleased with my "composition." I hope when he visits this neighborhood again he will find fewer weeds. Land worth \$150 per acre ought to produce something better than this-tles, red-root, quack-grass and chess.
—Exchange.

Toads and Bees.

F. Glasgow, St. Louis county Missouri, writes to the *Bee Keeper's Magazine*: I have read that toads do little or no damage to the bee keeper, but I lately found several on the front board of my hives, and once I watched, and within fifteen minutes saw him eat four Italians and two flies; then I executed and dasected him, and found his stomach perfectly crammed with Italian workers. This was a very small toad, and I suppose could not have had less than twelve bees in his stomach. A toad twice as large would likely eat twenty-four bees, and three meals a day (I think I am right) makes seventy-two bees for one toad in a day, and a small family of four would make

away with 288 bees a day. Pretty stiff. Perhaps my calculation may be too high about his three meals a day, but I am certain that when a toad finds how easy it is to get his meals at the entrance of a bee hive, he won't look for bugs or worms. But the most serious thing they can do is to gobble up the young queens in returning home from their bridal trip. Let those who have their hives near the ground look out for toads.

Draining Fields.

A correspondent to the *Ohio Farmer* gives these directions for draining fields without the use of the spade; First, stake out the line for the ditch; then plough three, four, or five furrows, depending upon the size of the plough and the depth of the ditch wanted, taking the last furrow from where we want the center of the ditch; then with a team and scraper (a good road scraper answers very well) scrape the earth each way, carrying it back one, two, or even three rods—if there is any low place to be filled up, sloping the banks so that you can drive a team and wagon or plough through without any difficulty; then if the land is flat or level, plough at right angles from the ditch in lands fourteen to sixteen paces wide, opening the last or dead furrow into the ditch. Plough in the same manner two or three times if necessary, bring the last furrow in the same place until your land is dry, and in rolling beds fourteen or sixteen paces wide. You can then cross the lands or beds, and your land will remain rolling and dry.

The Largest Grapevine.

I notice a paragraph in the March number of the *Rural Southerner*, which states that California claims to have the largest grapevine in existence, it being fifty-four years old, and yielded three tons of grapes last year, and that its branches cover a space of two hundred feet in diameter.

There is a Scuppernog grapevine growing on an island in the Albatross sound, on the eastern coast of North Carolina, which has run across the island in different directions, and the vines leading from the original parent stock have stretched across nine acres of land, from tree to tree. Twenty barrels of wine have been made from it in one season.

No one knows the age of this vine, but it is supposed to have been in existence when Sir Walter Raleigh first visited the country in 1584. (See Wayloy's History of North Carolina, page 344, B. F. B.)—*Rural Southerner*.

Sowing Timothy.

When is the best time to sow timothy? How should the soil be prepared and the seed sown? Also, should timothy and clover be sown together or separate. R. H. M., Paxton, Ill. [Timothy may be sown at any time when the soil is in good order and sufficiently moist to cause germination. We have sown it successfully early in autumn and early in spring. The most common practice is to sow it early in autumn, but spring sowing is frequent. If in spring, it may be sown with clover-

seed mixed; if in autumn, it must be sown alone, and the clover next spring, as the young plants of the latter will not endure the winter. The best preparation of the soil is a clean, mellow surface, free from weeds, and the seed may be raked or bushed in, so that they may be very lightly covered. If buried deep, as in common harrowing, only a small part will come up.]—*Country Gentleman*.

Artificial Hay Drier.

We observe the following in the *New England Farmer*:

"The editor of the *MAINE FARMER* is not satisfied with entire dependence on sunshine for making hay, and asks, 'why may not a dry house be built on each farm—something after the manner of houses used for drying hops in hop-growing sections—cheaply constructed, with a flue, hot air chamber, and an endless rack or belt on which the hay could be placed and carried through the hot air chamber, the moisture expelled, and the hay come out perfectly cured at the other end of the flue? This idea has been interwoven into the air-castle of many becalmed hay maker, who has dreamed dreams during a rainy hay season; and it has also been expressed in the theoretical essays of some agricultural writers. Land is ploughed and grain is threshed by steam, and is the *MAINE FARMER*'s artificial hay dryer an impossibility?"

Apparatus for the purpose above referred to, has been introduced in Great Britain, where the climate is such as to render it of far greater value than here, both in saving hay,

and often in harvesting grain. The English papers, within a year or two, have spoken of the apparatus as working successfully, but we do not think it has ever come into practical use—proving, perhaps, so complicated or costly as to counterbalance in a great degree the advantages it secures. We have no description of it at hand for reference, and do not remember the mode of construction.—*Country Gentleman.*

International Crop Reports.

The Secretary of the Iowa State Agricultural Society, in his annual report for 1872, says, concerning the practicability of international crop reports:

Plans to obtain a true report of the condition of crops through the world, for the benefit of farmers, have of late received wide discussion. It is proposed to utilize the appliances and machinery already in the possession of the Department of Agriculture—the storm-signal service for the benefit of the War Department; the meteorological report of some of the States, together with the observations in all other lands now made under the direction of the several governments—to accomplish this result. To this end it is recommended that a common plan be adopted, through an international conference of meteorologists and workers, and it will follow that every farmer in the land will be kept as accurately acquainted with the crops and their possible effects upon the market, as are the bankers and brokers and merchants in London, New York, and Chicago. By the knowledge thus gained they would receive

full price for their produce, and no longer be at the mercy of speculators and middlemen. The feasibility of arriving at some plan by which this may be done is argued with great ingenuity by the supporters of a system of international crop reports; and, from the extent and magnitude of the interest involved, it should at once receive careful and candid consideration.

Ash-Colored Turkeys.

France claims to have produced a new breed of turkeys of remarkable excellence, and endowed with a more prolific tendency to produce eggs throughout the year than any other breed ever possessed; for, like the hen, they will furnish us eggs for breakfast at least ten months out of the twelve. Will not our poultry fanciers hasten to procure some?

Farmers should have an eye to business. The writer of this has often been impressed with the belief that the most successful farmers are those who lie awake and mature plans for the coming day or week, while others sleep. There is a great deal in letting the brain do its share of the work. The farmer who will never think that it is better to feed his corn to stock, and thereby increase its value three-fold, than to haul it to the station in the ear and sell it for almost a song—should not expect to succeed. Admitting that the freights are too high and all that, thought must precede muscle in order to make farming or any other kind of business profitable.—*Colman's Rural World.*

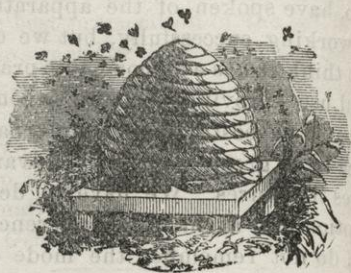
LADIES' DEPARTMENT. EDITOR'S TABLE.

The Old Woman's Story.

(CONCLUDED.)

Good morning, Mrs. Atkinson, I have come to attend the Exposition, but I have got no honey after all my bragging, nor bees either. Do not look so surprised, I tell you my bees are all gone sure. Ah, yes, I see by the twinkle in your eye that you have guessed my secret. I suppose my face was not quite long enough to make you think I had lost them as some did this time last year. No, my bees are all right, but some disease has taken hold of my neighbors, they have got the bee fever bad, and nothing seems to give them any relief but bees, another bad feature is the disease is spreading fast, and not bees enough to help them all. I gave them all I had at twenty dollars per colony, and still the cry is bees, bees, like the story of Pat, who laid six weeks in the month of June with a burning fever, and all he cried was water, water. Now self, first, is a general feeling I believe, I want twenty stocks for myself, and five more for my distressed neighbors, and if you have more to spare I will send for them. You see I just double on them, pay you ten and get twenty dollars, that is just as good as selling honey I think, at least I am quite as well satisfied. But I must cut my story short this morning and get up to the Exposition. I am very sorry that you have sold out the JOURNAL. You say Miss Ellen S. Tupper is at the Exposition, now I hope to see her; I know from what you say she will publish a good JOURNAL, and will help us poor bee-neglected beings, but I for one will miss the many friendly chats I have had with you in Indianapolis, still I hope we shall often hear from you when you get settled in your new home, and may success be with you is the wish of your friend

MARIA J. THOMPSON.



INDIANAPOLIS, OCTOBER, 1873.

WE bid our readers farewell, with heartfelt thanks for the many acts and words of appreciation of our labors. Duty appears to call us to a new field of labor, where we can not well edit this JOURNAL, although our work for it will not cease, and our love for and interest in it will continue through life. Our friends may feel that though we retain no pecuniary interest in these pages, they will still please us by working for it. If we have builded well, and others must now reap the fruit of our labor, we rejoice that a woman is found competent and willing to undertake the labor, and we trust she will reap an abundant harvest. Our friends may feel that in this farewell we are not leaving them, only changing our location, and we mean in our new home in Florada still to fight old fogies in bee keeping, and to aid all who are seeking to find the better way. Especially shall we try to help all women, north and south, who are trying to help themselves in this field, so promising for sister workers.

C. ATKINSON.

CIRCULAR.

To the Patrons of the *National Bee Journal*,
and to all Bee-Keepers:

With the October number we assume entire control, as Editor and Publisher, of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL. We bring to the work an experience of fifteen years as a practical bee-keeper, having had for that time the personal charge of an apiary, rearing queens and producing honey extensively. We have most intimate and pleasant relations with bee-keepers—North, South, East and West—and solicit aid from all sections. We have engaged contributions from leading bee-keepers, and our columns are open at all times to articles from all. The record of their personal experience will be welcome, and of great value to our readers.

We have *no interest whatever in any form of patent hive*, and while we exert no influence for any, we solicit practical articles from all who have used any form successfully.

While our columns are open to the experience of all, we reserve the right, and shall deem it our duty, to express any difference of opinion clearly but kindly.

We move the office of the JOURNAL to Des Moines, Iowa, believing that to be a central point for it, as a great trade is now opening for us in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado. Our friends there will give us at once a good circulation, and this will be of vast advantage to our advertising patrons.

Good canvassers wanted in every county in the United States. Liberal terms to agents, and valuable premiums given subscribers in Italian Queens, Seeds, and Books upon Bee-keeping.

☛ Three months FREE to all subscribers for 1874.

All letters must be addressed to

ELLEN S. TUPPER,

Des Moines, Iowa.

WE assume the charge of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL after mature deliberation, having counted the cost well. We find it in a prosperous condition, with a good circulation, secured by the indefatigable efforts of those from whom we take it. Matters beyond our control prevented our reaching Indianapolis until the present number was ready for issue, and we have neither time or space to announce our plans or make promises for the future. It is well, for we prefer to *do* rather than to *promise*. We bring to the work the experience of fifteen years as a practical bee-keeper, and expect to continue our labor in the apiary while we record the result of our labors for the benefit of our readers. We shall show an improvement in the JOURNAL with every issue until we bring it up to our standard of excellence. The best writers upon bee-keeping, and those who keep bees as well as write about them, have promised their aid in this work. We have several able and practical correspondents in the south, where the interest in this branch of industry is increasing month by month, and where our JOURNAL has many friends, and hopes to make thousands more.

The NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL belongs to all sections of the country. We invite contributions from all, and while we shall admit nothing personal or offensive to any, we shall rejoice in a free discussion of every topic of interest.

Though we have progressed wonderfully in the science and practice of bee-keeping, we have all much to learn, and there is no medium of information so good as a journal

where practical bee-keepers record their experience. Such a medium we shall make this; let its old friends rally to its aid, bringing hosts of new ones to increase its value.

WE shall continue the JOURNAL in its present form and size for the remainder of the year, and decide in that time what will be best for our subscribers. We make no promises, except that we shall greatly improve it. We believe our subscribers take the Journal because they desire information upon the subject of bees and their management. We shall devote its columns exclusively to articles upon topics pertaining to that subject. We shall have communications from able writers, and spare no expense to obtain them. We offer no premiums, except those pertaining to the business: if we cannot make the Journal worth the price charged for it, we are deceived in ourselves and deserve to lose our subscribers.

We shall reduce our advertising space, and make what remains more valuable to those who patronize us by increasing our circulation.

We shall print very large editions of this and the succeeding numbers, sending specimen copies to a large list of those not now subscribers. This will be of advantage to those advertising with us.

The *Rural New Yorker* mentions an individual who puts down his winter's milk the same as some people lay in vegetables, etc. He bottles a lot of milk in the fall, heats them to the boiling point, then corks the bottles and covers the corks with wax.

Wintering Bees.

How to winter bees successfully. is the question of interest above all others at this time. Thousands whose bees have done well this summer, both in surplus honey and increase, are waiting with anxious hearts to know if next spring will find their bees all dead, as has been the case so often. We are sure that *where there is no disease*, it is an easy thing to winter bees without the loss of one colony. We speak what we do know in this matter. We do not dispute the testimony of those who say bees have died of disease, we know it is so in some parts of the country, but in other places the loss was caused by simplest natural causes; and what is called dysentery was only the natural fœcal matter bees will always discharge when cold or unduly disturbed during cold weather.

About September 1st, we were asked to examine twenty-seven colonies of bees which a friend had bought. We found every hive filled with scaled honey in every frame, not a single cell of brood in any stage, nor any place to put any; the yield of honey from a field of buck-wheat near had been great, and the bees in their eagerness had filled up to the exclusion of brood. Had these hives been left in that condition, the bees they then contained would have all died a natural death by winter, and no young ones living there to supply their places, at the approach of cold the cluster would be too small for warmth, and would have miserably perished. A large cluster will eat away the honey in the centre, and make a com-

fortable space for themselves. We are sure there would have been dysentery in all these hives had they not been helped. We extracted honey from them all, and in a short time breeding had commenced, and they will go into winter with young bees and room for them to be comfortable.

Where there is no disease we say it is easy to winter bees. Give them plenty of honey, but not too much, empty space to cluster in, and keep them dry as well as warm. For us a dry cellar is the best place, others find rooms above ground as good. In either place they must have empty comb near the centre; secure that in any hive by taking out full frames and substituting empty ones, or extracting honey from a centre comb. Be sure that there is room between the bottom of combs and the honey-board. Put a bee quilt, piece of old quilt, blanket, or carpet, over the top of the frames, removing all honey-boards; do this at once, but leave the bees on their summer stands until near the last of November, *then just after some day when the bees have taken a good flight*, remove them to the cellar or house, leave them in perfect darkness and undisturbed till spring. Allow at least twenty pounds of honey to a hive wintered in the cellar, weighing first November, and much more if left out of doors. If bees have not that amount, feed them at once until they have—they do much better if fed while they can fly freely. We think bee-keepers have failed to pay proper attention to several important items in preparing bees for winter:

1st. They have allowed them to

remain too late out in the cold, until the combs become frosty before putting them away.

2d. They have chosen a very cold instead of a warm time to move them.

3d. They have allowed too much ventilation, and a draft through the hive has made the bees uncomfortable. This is prevented by the quilt, which secures warmth while the moisture passes through.

In these directions we have spoken of strong colonies. Smaller ones can be wintered successfully as Honner has told us, but they need more care and greater warmth. We will hear from Honner on this point in November next.

ELLEN S. TUPPER.

THE display of bee hives, extractors, honey, etc., was very small at the Indianapolis Exposition. Atkinson's new and old Extractor, two bee hives and some honey constituted the whole show, until near the close N. C. Mitchell appeared with honey in neat shape, which was colored of various hues, from light red to pale yellow. The comb in which this honey is stored is white as the purest comb made from clover. A number of prominent bee keepers called at the stand of the National Bee Journal at various times, and animated conversation upon interesting points seemed to interest them more than all the curious and beautiful things about them.

A MEETING of the North American Bee Keepers' Society will be held at Louisville, Kentucky, commencing the first Wednesday of De-

cember next. We hear that nearly all parts of the South will be represented there, and hope that the attendance from all sections will be large. We are endeavoring to secure reduced rates to those attending the Convention, over leading railroads, and full particulars will be given in our November number. The press will oblige by noticing this meeting.

Dr. Anderson, of Edinburg, Scotland, has proved by actual analysis that the last gill of milk drawn from the udder of the cow contains sixteen times the amount of cream incident to the first one, the separation of the cream from the milk taking place in part in the udder, particularly when the animal is suffered to stand at rest for some time before milking.

OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE TEATS.—Small substances which obstruct the flow of milk are sometimes found in the teat and are either lacteal calculi (milk stones) or tumors attached to the lining of the teat. A silver probe, or a knitting-needle, must be passed up the teat, and those obstructions either broken down or passed into the udder. Attempts to extract them from the end of the teat cause dangerous inflammation. When strictures exist in the passage of the teat, a probe or knitting-needle.

ALL those who have ordered premium queens, and have not received them, will at once inform us. We hope these orders are all filled, but have not had positive information on the subject from all for whom we ordered. MRS. THOS. ATKINSON.

A WRITER in the *Indiana Farmer* declares the Italian bee to be a "nuisance" because they destroy grapes—says he has caught him in the act. He then continues:

"I have accused the *Italian* bee on the principle that bees as well as men should be presumed to be innocent until the contrary has been proven. I do not know that the common bee is innocent, but, as yet, I have not caught him in the act. If he is not guilty, I am sure that the difference in the value of the two races will not at all compensate for the loss of the grape crop."

We ask our readers who have ever seen fruit damaged in any way by bees, either Italians or the common bee, to send us the facts. We want to know them. We have kept bees some years in the vicinity of grapevines, and never yet saw a bee upon a grape. The past season our bees were kept out on the place of a well known horticulturist. In the spring, when we put them there, he asked if we thought they would injure his grapes. We went surety for their good behavior in this respect, and we are sure he will testify that they have not forfeited our bond in their behalf. It is important that we get facts in this matter. Who will send us evidence, for or against the bees? And can any one tell us if the Italians are most mischievous? It may be that when honey is not abundant at the time the grapes are ripe, destitute colonies may be foraging; or are these robbers of vineyards suffering for water? Who will send us facts? When we have them we may find a remedy without banishing the bees from the neighborhood. Novice finds that feeding sugar prevents depredations on cedar mills,

and we are sure it would be better to feed syrup than to have trouble of this kind.

"C. C. A.," in the *Farmers' Union*, in an article on the bee disease, says:

"Now, the cold weather has prevailed for the past two winters, and the past few years colonies have been divided, and subdivided, in and out of season; queens have been raised by forcing, early and late (and did any one ever see a queen that was raised in September, in a small nuclei, that was good for anything?)"

This question seems to require an answer. We never rear queens in very small nuclei, but we have reared them at all seasons of the year, hundreds first and last in September, and some as late as November, and have found them in all respects as good as those reared earlier in the season. The very best queen we ever saw, prolific and long lived, was hatched and fertilized in September, and there was less than a pint of bees in the nuclei where she was hatched.

We have seen queens hatched in the fall, too late to be fertilized, that remained in a full colony all winter, said colony wintering well. The queen was laying drone eggs freely in the spring; was then killed and a fertile queen given to the swarm, which, though reduced in numbers before young bees were reared, did well that season. "C. C. A." must look farther than this for the "bee disease." We do not believe that rearing queens too late had anything to do with it.

"DEAR JOURNAL—How shall I feed my bees this winter. They have not honey enough. Is honey not

better than sugar? How shall I prepare the sugar? C. B."

You do not want to feed your bees in winter. Do it now while the weather is so warm that they can fly occasionally. Dissolve the sugar (good coffee is best) and boil a very little. Feed it to the bees in any way that you choose, inside the hives. If you have no feeder a common square oyster can is good.

"Is it too late to change queens now? I have still two black colonies that I want to Italianize."

It is not too late. If you have Italian drones it is not too late to rear them, even. We have had many queens in years past hatched and fertilized in November. By doing it now you may gain a whole season by having no black drones in your apiary next spring.

"DEAR MRS. ATKINSON—I was told last week that you were about to leave the Nation Bee-Journal and move to Florida. This is bad news, especially as we do not know who is to take your place. I hear some say that Mr. King, is to unite the Journal with his." Don't let the King swallow up the "Queen?" We think, out this way that he has quite enough business on his hands, and we don't want to see the National absorbed in any other Bee-Journal. We have scolded you some, dear Madam, but it was all in love as we reprove our children. But we do feel that your paper should be sustained, and hope some one will take it who can make it what a National Journal should be. My best wishes follow you to your new home.

Yours

G. W.

Hendricks County Indiana,

"I HAVE two stocks of bees, neither of them very strong. Shall I unite them or feed them? C. E. F."

That depends on several circumstances. If both have fertile, prolific queens, we would feed them freely during this month, and have both in good order for winter; but if either queen is poor, kill her, wait two days, and then select the best combs from both hives, put them together, bees and all, brush the bees of from remaining empty combs, and put them safely away until spring. The bees will unite without fighting, *when one colony has been queenless a short time*. It will be well to feed them a little after uniting, even if they have honey sufficient. It is well to remember one thing, and that is to notice if bees in these hives are mostly old. If this be so there may be danger in trying to keep both united; though, united, they will do well.

THE matter for the Agricultural Department was prepared before we reached Indianapolis. It will be the last inserted, as we need every inch of space for our bee matter in future. It will be seen that we club with the best agricultural papers in the country, and will be glad to send one, at least, of them to all subscribers.

A NEW illustrated monthly magazine, for boys and girls, will soon be commenced by Messrs. Scribner & Co., of New York, the publishers of the well-known popular illustrated magazine for the people. From the prospectus, and the character of the gentlemen and ladies who have the magazine in charge, we look for something superior to anything yet attempted in this line.

Our friends will see by this number that we have disposed of the Journal, to the one who of all others can make it what it ought to be. We announce the change with great pride, sure now of the success of our Journal. We assure all concerned, that Mr. King has no interest in it in the future. Mrs. Tupper and *she alone* is henceforth responsible for all it contains. We hold ourselves good for the fulfillment of all old contracts for the paper and for premium queens, but after this, "scoldings" and praise must be sent to Mrs. Tupper.

MRS. THOS. ATKINSON.

E. H. BARBER.

All old subscribers who will send us a new name with three dollars, during the next month will receive the Journal for themselves and the new subscriber and two works on Bee Keeping. Those who send in three new names, with six dollars will receive their own Journal for 1874 free, and three copies of Bee books. The new subscribers will receive the Journal from October.

These liberal offers will we hope induce all old subscribers to work for us. Send names and money to Ellen S. Stupper, Des Moines, Iowa.

A writer in the *Practical Farmer* states, that his standard for yield of butter per cow is 200 pounds per annum, and that he sends all cows falling below this mark to the butcher. This year he proposes to make 210 pounds per cow. He expresses a warm preference for the Jerseys (both thorough bred and grade) as butter-producing animals, and claims that they give a larger average yield than any other breed.

"We have just closed up a splendid harvest, in the best of condition, with the best of weather. We were broken off in the midst of writing this by the cry of *bees swarming*, making the second swarm this forenoon, and only 11 o'clock. Both No. 1 swarms. From now till frost is our best honey harvest."

The above, from the Iowa Homestead, may seem strange to eastern readers, but in Iowa we often have swarms of bees as late as September 15th, that *fill their hives*. We made several new colonies this year late in August that are among our best now.

We urge all our bee-keeping friends, who store bees in cellars or special repositories, to think of the risk and insure against fire. The expense is trifling. Friend Barberr, of Illinois, can testify how great was the relief of even his small insurance after the loss of his bees. We recommend THE WESTCHESTER COMPANY, M. O. BROWN, of Indianapolis, General agent, as prompt and liberal in adjusting losses. We were insured by them, and found them as ready to pay losses as to issue policies.

GOOD BUTRER PAYS.—A correspondent of *Colman's Rural World* gives an account of a creamery established near Foristell, Mo., on the North Missouri railroad, which has a capacity for 200 cows. The butter is made into pound prints, packed in ice and shipped regularly each day by express to a commission merchant in St. Louis who handles the entire product of the creamery. The butter is sold at fifty cents per pound, and the demand is greater than the supply.

WE acknowledge complimentary tickets from the Kansas Board of Agriculture to their Ninth Annual Fair, to be held at Topeka, Kansas, September 22 to 26; from Kansas Agricultural and Mechanical Association, to be held at Leavenworth October 6 to 11; and from National Industrial Exposition, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, September 2d to October 11th. We were not able to attend either of these, but are not the less grateful for the kind remembrance. We are grateful, also, for the many favors shown us by the officers of the Indiana Exposition and State Fair.

LEWIS ELLSWORTH, Napierville, DuPage county, Illinois, advertises a large assortment of nursery stock, ornamental trees, also greenhouse plants, in large assortment and of excellent quality. We have never bought plants that gave us so good satisfaction as those sent us from this establishment, and assure all who patronize him that they will find everything sent out by him healthy, vigorous, and true to name.

WE have received the Catalogue of Briggs Brothers, Rochester, New York, for their new and valuable winter blooming plants, and choice bulbs for fall planting. We heartily recommend this firm to the patronage of all purchasing seeds, as we have always found their seeds and plants just what they represented.

OUR JOURNAL will be in the hands of every subscriber by the middle of each month. We prefer to publish it then rather than the first of the month, at present, but will spare no effort to have it sent promptly.

WE hear from Mr. Hill, near Cincinnati (he gives us no initials), that he has taken sixty-three hundred and nine pounds of honey from seventy-nine colonies of bees this season. His bees are Italian. Two-thirds of this honey is extracted; the remainder in the comb. A good report. We like to hear of such success. Kope he will tell us in the spring how his bees winter.

Having sold our interest in the National Bee Journal to Ellen S. Tupper, we desire all those indebted for subscription or advertising in the same, will refund to W. A. Schofield, Indianapolis Ind. as we leave the books and accounts with him for settlement. ATKINSON & BARBER.

OUR friends and agents will remember that the October, November and December numbers will be sent free to all subscribers for 1874 sent soon—fifteen numbers for one year's subscription. These three numbers, to those who wish specimen copies, will be sent for 15 cents. For 50 cents, three months' numbers and a book on Bee Culture. Specimen copy mailed free to all who apply. Address,

ELLEN S. TUPPER,
Des Moines, Iowa.

SPECIAL PREMIUM.

To any one who will send us six new subscribers, with \$10.00, we will send an order (accepted) on Bliss, of Rochester, or Lewis Ellsworth, of Napierville, for three dollars' worth of choice seeds or plants. We will also three dollars worth of choice tulip bulbs for six new subscribers, with \$10.00. We offer this to induce young ladies or any one who loves flowers to work for us.

Houdan Fowls.

From Mr. Geo. B. Bayley, the noted breeder of fine fowls on this Coast, who advertises regularly in the *AGRICULTURIST*, we are indebted for this fine illustration of Houdan fowls. Speaking of this breed, the *National Live Stock Journal* says: The variety is too little known by poultry keepers generally. For the cheap production of eggs and flesh they have no superiors, and some of the more enthusiastic breeders declare that they are ahead of any other kind. However that may be, they will be found a desirable breed for the general farmer, who raises eggs and chickens for the market and for his own table. They have deep, well-formed bodies, on short legs; the body being remarkably well developed on the breast, equalling in that respect, if not surpassing, the Dorking, and their flesh is of the very best quality, being white and delicate.

The hens are non-sitters, and prolific and constant layers of large white eggs. The chickens are strong and healthy, feather well, and come to marketable maturity at a very early age; in fact, we believe a crop of young Houdans is fit for the table sooner than any other breed whatever.

Altogether they are the most valuable of the French breeds, all of which are excellent as layers and for the table, for which they are chiefly bred, the *fancy* points being considered of minor importance.

The Houdan is believed to be the result of a cross between the Poland and the Dorking breeds, as it plainly shows the crested head and pecu-

liar open nostril of the Poland, and the characteristic fifth toe of the Dorking.

Bees and Fruit.

Every one who has a fruit garden could well afford to keep a few colonies of bees, and doubtless by having bees among his fruits when they are in bloom, would be more certain of getting fruit at all, than if there were no bees in the orchard.

Mr. Langstroth argues that it is not at all supposable that the Creator would have made the bee the natural enemy of fruit. As bees carry on their bodies pollen, or the fertilizing substance, they aid vastly in the impregnation of plants.

If the weather is continuously cloudy in the spring so that the bees cannot fly out and carry the pollen from one blossom to another, need be no expectation of a crop of fruit, but if the trees hum with bees, a full crop is sure to set, unless damaged by other causes.—*Iowa Homestead*.

Do Honey Bees Destroy Fruit?

The mandible of the honey bee is not equal to the task of cutting through the most delicately formed skin of fruits. It is only when the fruit is cracked open or has been punctured by birds, wasps or some other thing, that the bees ever feed upon fruits. In this State the yellowjacket wasp is very destructive of fruits, and the honey bee will feed upon the sweet juices made accessible by the mandibles of the yellow jackets which can penetrate the fruits. Bees will find their hives with honey from fruits, but they are not the first aggressors, and only save what is exposed to loss by other depredators.—*Selected*.

Origin of Plants.

Madder came from the East.

Celery originated in Germany.

The chestnut came from Italy.

The onion originated in Egypt.

Tobacco is a native of Virginia.

The nettle is a native of Europe.

The citron is a native of Greece.

The pine is a native of America.

Oats originated in North Africa.

The poppy originated in the East.

Rye came, originally, from Sardinia.

The pear and apple are from Europe.

Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia.

The mulberry tree originated in Persia.

The quince came from the island of Crete.

The gourd is probably an eastern plant.

The walnut and peach came from Persia.

The cucumber came from the East Indies.

The horse chestnut is a native of Thibet.

The radish is a native of China and Japan.

Peas are supposed to be of Egyptian origin.

MR. F. K. PHENIX, in speaking of growing grapes near water, says in the *Ohio Farmer*: "Most of the vines are planted along the water, say two feet from the stream—three or four are close around the spring, water of course underneath, and soil constantly trodden. All the vines have a constant stream running past, and most of the roots under water. One of the vines in particular is sur-

rounded with water, and no root can reach dry ground except by passing through that saturated ground at least fifteen or twenty feet. That vine which is most under water has the largest bunches and is the most healthy of all, if there be any difference where all seem perfectly healthy—no mildew or rot on them. The same man has some vines on dry ground, and pretty much used up by the mildew. I should have added that the soil is sandy, gravelly or rocky mixture, covered with heavy grass; sod that has never been disturbed by plow or spade, and the sole cultivation it gets is to mow off the grass two or three times annually. The trellis is some eight or nine feet high, every year covered with healthy foliage and plenty of the finest Isabella, Catawba and Concord fruit. I myself have three Concord vines of some ten or twelve years' growth; two of them stand where the roots can reach water, and these two vines are far healthier, bear better fruit and twice as much as the other growing on dry ground, though trenched two and a half feet deep. I am fully satisfied that the labrusca or Fox family of grapes do best when the roots can reach the water, and the next best thing for grapes, paradoxical as it may seem, is a very dry season, because it keeps the foliage healthy. Artificial shelter, as a capping over the vines to shed off the wet, seems to answer very much the same purpose.

A farmer can do more work with a good thinking apparatus than with the best span of horses ever hitched to a wagon.

The Butcher Thought well of it.

The *Farmer's advocate*, in speaking of the \$27,000 heifer calf bought by A. J. Alexander, of Ky., at the New York Mills sale, says:

"A funny story is told in connection with this calf. A butcher who has been buying calves for the lovers of veal in Utica at \$4, \$6 and \$8 per head, got his eye on this plumb, sleek creature without being told its value. Supposing it would be sold with the beef cattle, he called upon Senator Campbell and said he liked the looks of this calf, and was willing to pay a good price for it. Would the Senator give it to him for \$12! The Senator smiled at the offer but said nothing. That butcher was at the sale yesterday, and he was astonished.

A little calf which followed its mother was valued by a Canajohaire butcher at twelve shillings when he first saw it. When it was bid off at \$1,300 this verdant butcher opened his eyes, put two extra turns of his shoe-string around his calf-skin wallet and stepped buck from the ring."

For many years butter has been sent from Copenhagen to Europe in hermetically sealed tin cans. Altho' the business was commenced originally as an experiment, it has expanded to such a degree that, during the last two years, it has occupied several of the largest butter dealers of Copenhagen. The object of packing the butter in this manner is to protect it against the action of air and heat, and this is so completely attained that that butter has been sent from Copenhagen to China and back again, without the smallest de-

triment to its edible qualities. The principal places of demand are China, Brazil, Java, Spain and other countries, generally through London or Liverpool houses. The packages vary in size up to twenty-eight pounds, although those of four pounds are generally preferred. The cans are lined inside with wood, saturated with salt pickle, and when filled, are soldered up. This treatment is enough to exert a very important influence in the preservation of the butter.—*Ex.*

Profit in Stock Feeding.

The *Grant City (Mo.) Star* publishes the following:

As an instance of the immense profit made in raising and feeding cattle in Worth county, we may remark that Mr. Cumberland Wall, one, of the stanch farmers of Union Township, purchased ninety-eight head of Texas cattle last fall, for which he paid one thousand dollars. He sold them a few days since for nineteen hundred dollars, thus making a profit of nearly one hundred per cent.

Experiments have just been instituted in Berlin with a view of determining what harm is really done to roots of trees and shrubs by coal gases escaping from the pipes and permeating the soil. It has been found that even so small a quantity as twenty-five cubic feet of gas per day, distributed through 576 cubic feet of earth, rapidly kills the rootlets of all trees with which it comes in contact.

From an Oregon plum orchard eight years old, has been dried two tons of plums per acre this season.

How many of our readers know that the Linden tree can be propagated from strips quite as easily as the willow. We inquire, because we frequently receive letters asking where young linn trees can be bought, and what is the best time to transplant. If you are near Linn trees, go any time during the latter part of winter, cut shoots of any age, and, when the ground is ready for ploughing, prepare it well and set the cuttings where you wish the tree to stand. Ninety per cent of these cuttings will live. We know a woman who, with her own hands, prepared the ground and set the cuttings on two sides of a forty acre lot, and now has beautiful rows of shade trees that, in six years, have grown from cuttings to trees six and seven inches in diameter at the trunk and this year blossomed quite freely.

A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer*, in relating the result of his winter's work in the way of making butter, states, that he has fed, the past winter unthreshed oats, with feed of hay between, with much better results than when hay alone has been fed. The milk has been extremely rich (18 lbs. of cream making 10½ lbs. butter, weighed before salting), 10 lbs. of milk making a pound of butter, and the product has been invariably well colored and very firm.

COMMUNICATIONS for the JOURNAL must be sent in by the 15th of each month to appear in the succeeding month. Thus, matter for the November number must be in our hands by the 15th of October to appear in that number.

FOR SALE

One nice second hand Wilcox & Gibbs, Sewing Machine, in perfect order.

New Sewing Machines of Wilcox & Gibbs' patent at manufacturers prices.

Address ELLEN TUPPER,
Des Moines, Iowa.

INDIANA FARMER,

(Formerly North-Western Farmer.)

ONLY AGRICULTURAL PAPER IN INDIANA.

Devotes a Department to the interests of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry.

Organ of the Indiana State Board of Agriculture.

Endorsed by Indiana Horticultural Society, Indiana Short-Horn Breeders' Convention, and many County and District Societies.

J. G. KINGSBURY & BRO., Publishers.

OFFICE, No. 4 Journal Building.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS.—\$2.20; to clubs of four or more, \$1.75 each.

ADVERTISING TERMS: Ordinary pages 15 cents per line, nonpareil measure, first insertion; extra charge for special location: special notices, 20 cents.

BEE-KEEPER'S SUPPLIES.

We can furnish everything needed in the Apiary, such as Italian Bees and Pure Queens, Honey Extractors, Knives, New System and Champion Hives, six styles, Bee-Feeders and Ventilators, Bee-Veils, the American Bee-Keeper's Guide, 244 pages, paper cover, 50 cts.; bound, \$1.00; Wax Extractors, \$3.00; Alsike Clover Seed, Black Spanish Chickens, &c. Send for our large illustrated PAMPHLET, containing information for Bee-Keepers, FREE to all. E. KRETCHMER, Coburg, Mont. Co., Iowa.

ITALIAN BEES.—We offer for sale about 200 colonies of Italian Bees in the American Movable Comb Hive. Also, Queens throughout the season. Purity and safe arrival guaranteed. For further particulars, prices, &c., send for circular.

BALDWIN BROS.,
Sandusky, N. Y.

QUEENS! QUEENS!!

Those wishing good early Italian Queens would do well to send for my circular.

Address,

G. H. BOUGHTON,
Illioopolis, Sangamon Co., Illinois.

PUBLISHERS' DEPARTMENT.

Advertising Rates.

SPACE.	SPECIAL.				
	1 Month.	2 Months.	3 Months.	6 Months.	1 Year.
1 Page.....	\$16	\$30	\$45	\$80	\$150
1/2 Page.....	12	20	30	55	100
1 Column.....	10	18	25	45	85
1/2 Column.....	8	15	20	40	70
1/4 Column.....	7	12	17	25	40
1/8 Column.....	6	10	15	20	30
1/16 Column.....	3	5	7	10	15

Bills of regular advertisers payable quarterly if inserted for three or more months; payable monthly if inserted for less than three months. Transient advertisements, cash in advance.

We adhere strictly to our printed rates.

Address all business communications to

ELLEN S. TUPLER,

Publisher.

BEE-KEEPERS' DIRECTORY.

Parties desiring to Purchase Italian Queens and Colonies, will find in this Directory the names of some of the most reliable Breeders in the Country.

Cards inserted in this Directory, and copy of the paper sent one year, for \$8 per annum, cards to be four lines or less. For each additional line \$2 per annum will be charged. A line will average six words.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

THE ITALIAN BEE COMPANY, DES MOINES, IOWA,

Offers for sale a few choice colonies of Italian Bees, in Movable Comb Hives, at low prices. These Bees are in such shape that they can be shipped to any part of the country with safety. Honey Extractors, Hives, of different forms, standard Books on Bee-keeping, etc., for sale at lowest prices. Letters of inquiry promptly answered at all times.

Address, ITALIAN BEE COMPANY, Des Moines, Iowa.

McKEON & RUFFINI, DESIGNERS & ENGRAVERS ON WOOD, Room 7, Glenss Block, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Views of Buildings, Portraits, Machinery, Landscapes, Maps, Labels, etc., engraved in the highest style of the art, and at reasonable rates.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

FROM WEST TENNESSEE.—Full Colonies of Italian Bees or Queens, Extractors, Hives and Honey for sale. S. W. COLE, Andrew Chapel, Madison county, Tenn.

ITALIAN BEES for 1873. Full Stocks \$15.00. Tested Queens, \$5.00. Liberal discount on large orders.

M. C. HESTER, Charlestown, Ind.

MURPHEY'S IMPROVED HONEY EXTRACTOR, the best in the market. Address, R. R. MURPHEY, Fulton, Whiteside Co., Ill.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

REV. A. SALISBURY, Breeder of pure Italian Queen Bees. For particulars and price list, Address, CAMARGO, ILL.

QUEEN BEE HIVE.

The partnership between Atkinson & Barber has been dissolved by mutual consent, and for the sale of the following territories in the above hive, apply to E. H. Barber, Indianapolis, viz.: Kansas, Masoori, Illinois, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Washington, and Oregon.

For all other unsold territory in the Queen Bee Hive and Atkinson's Honey Extractor, apply to T. Atkinson, Live Oak, Florida.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

CHOICE FOWLS FOR SALE.

A few trios of Houdans, from Stock imported from Garden of Acclamation in Paris, at \$15.00 per trio.

Also, young well grown, perfectly marked cocks, at \$5.00 each, partridge.

Cochin Partridge Cocks, \$6.00 each. Trios of these birds at \$15.00.

A few pairs of Red Game Bantams, \$10.00 per pair. Address,

M. A. & M. F. TTPPER, Cottage Grove, Des Moines, Iowa

**CHOICE QUEENS,
FOR 1873.**



My prices for Italian queens for the coming season, will be as follows:

For Warranted Pure Queens.

1 queen.....	\$2 50
3 " each.....	2 25
6 " and upwards, each.....	2 00

Tested Pure Queens.

For 1 Tested Pure Queen.....	\$3 50
" 3 " " " each.....	3 25
" 6 and upwards, each.....	3 00

Queens will be bred from none but the choicest stock, and no drones will be allowed to hatch except from the purest mothers. Should any warranted queens prove impure, they will be replaced.

Orders will be filled in rotation, therefore, the sooner they are sent in the sooner the queen will be received. Queens will be sent by express or mail, as I may deem safest at the time of shipment. In ordering, give plainly the name of express and post office, if different from each other. Always be sure to give the county and State in every letter.

How to Send Money.

Small sums of money may be sent in registered letters. Larger sums by post office order on Painesville, O., office. All letters answered on the same day that they are received, so that none are forgotten.

Bee Feeders.

I have invented a bee feeder, which for convenience in filling and handling, I think can not be surpassed. Samples, holding 3½ lbs., will be sent by mail, postage paid, for 50 cents each. Per dozen, by express, not pre-paid, \$3.00. Address all orders to

E. M. JOHNSON,
Mentor, Lake Co., O.

A. J. HOOVER,

Dealer in

PURE ITALIAN QUEENS AND BEES.

All kinds of Aparian Supplies on hand. Also A. J. Hoover owner of the State of Pennsylvania, will act as agent for the Celebrated Queen Bee Hive, Pat. by Thos. Atkinson, also the Extractor and National Bee Journal, for the Eastern and Middle States. For information address

A. J. HOOVER,
Plymouth, Pa.

ITALIAN QUEEN BEES.

I am now prepared to fill orders for a limited number of choice tested Queens, bred from imported stock. Also,

PURE BRED POULTRY,

and Berkshire Swine.

For circulars &c., address,
L. H. B. WOODY,
Manchester,
St. Louis Co., Mo.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

HONEY EXTRACTORS.—We have 2 Machines for 1873 for emptying honey from the comb. One Machine will fill comb making it the best Bee feeder in use. Lowest price for all metal machine ever offered to the public. Send for our circular and price list.

J. L. PEABODY & CO.,
Normal P. O. Ill.



ONE DOLLAR for extracting one tooth with Laughing Gas.
ONE DOLLAR and upwards for Gold Fillings.
TEN DOLLARS for an Upper or Lower set of Teeth on Rubber, best quality.
All work warranted at
KILGORE'S DENTAL ROOMS
No. 70 North Illinois St.
Established 1865. Indianapolis.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

ITALIAN QUEEN BEES—And full colonies for sale in their highest grade of purity. Also fancy poultry. For circular address

R. M. ARGO,
Lowell, Garrard Co., Ky.

THE COMING HONEY EXTRACTOR.

T. Atkinson will show you in the next issue of the National Bee Journal, cut of Extractor now being prepared.

MUNCIE APIARY.—Italian Bees and Queens of the highest grade of purity. Queens, \$3.50 each. Full stocks in Langworth hives, \$15 each. Ten stocks, \$12 each. Purity and safe arrival guaranteed.

P. F. DAVIS,
Muncie, Delaware Co., Ind.

BEST THING IN THE WEST!!

ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE R. R.

Lands!**Three Million Acres**

Situated in and near the Arkansas Valley, the Finest Portion of Kansas.

Eleven years' credit. Seven per cent. Interest. 22½ per cent. reduction to settlers who improve.

A FREE PASS TO LAND BUYERS.

THE FACTS about this Grant are—Low Prices, Long Credit, and a Rebate to settlers of nearly one fourth; a Rich Soil, and Splendid Climate; short and mild Winters; early planting, and no wintering of Stock; plenty of Rainfall, and just at the right season; Coal, stone and brick on the line; Cheap Rates on Lumber, Coal, &c.; no land owned by Speculators; Homesteads and Pre-emptions now abundant; a first-class Railroad on the line of a great Through Route; Products will pay for land Improvements.

It is the best opportunity ever offered to the public, through the recent completion of the Road.

A. E. TOUZALIN,

Manager Land Department,

Or W. A. SCHOFIELD, | Topeka, Kan.
Indianapolis, Ind.

ARKANSAS VALLEY.**FARMERS.**

Or others going south-west to enter lands in the beautiful Arkansas Valley, through which runs the great

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe RAILROAD,

will get all the necessary information by addressing

W. A. SCHOFIELD,
Indianapolis, Ind., Agent.

Mr. S. is about to get up a grand excursion to come off sometime in August, due notice of which will be given through the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL and other papers. See Railroad advertisement on this page.

FOR SALE AND EXCHANGE.**Farm Lands,**
Improved and Unimproved,

In the following States:

INDIANA,

ILLINOIS,

MISSISSIPPI,

IOWA, and

TENNESSEE

Also for sale or trade,

CITY PROPERTY.

W. A. SCHOFIELD,

Indianapolis, Ind.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Everybody having property to sell or exchange, should advertise in the
NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL.

Having a large circulation throughout the Union renders it one of the best advertising mediums through which to reach the people.

**PURE ITALIAN
QUEEN BEES,**

Reared on Kelley's Island, Ohio,

TWELVE MILES FROM NATIVE BEES.

I WOULD SAY TO MY FORMER PATRONS and others, that I have made arrangements to return to this Island, for the purpose of rearing pure and reliable Queens, and would solicit a liberal share of patronage.

My Queens will be bred from mother imported direct from Switzerland, Italy, where they are claimed to be the most uniform and bright in color.

This beautiful Island, (two by four miles in extent,) is situated twelve miles out in the Lake, opposite Sandusky City, Ohio, and as there are no black bees kept there, undoubtedly the Queens I shall rear will be as pure as though reared in Italy.

For further information, price list, etc., address,
AARON BENEDICT,

Bennington, Ohio.

After 5th month (May) 20th, to 9th month (September) 20th, address me at Kelley's Island, Ohio.