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THE National Bee Journal.

DEVOTED TO THE CULTURE OF THE HONEY-BEE.

Vol. III. APRIL 1, 1872. No. 7.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Propositions Continued.

Messrs. Editors:—The March number of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL contains a communication from Mr. Wm. M. King, of Illinois, in which he both asks and communicates information. He tells us that "he is sixty-five years old, and has kept bees in the old way for forty years; that he is now keeping Italians, and is using the 'Triumph' hive." Standing, as he does, so near the boundary line that divides this world from the next, he must have a ripe experience in those things to which he has turned his attention. His forty years of toil and thought in the direction of bee keeping, should entitle him to a patient hearing. The results of his experience in patent hives may be a little questionable; especially as his

views are liable to be influenced by the prospect of sums of greenbacks, varying in size of from \$5 to \$400 for farm, township and county rights. He seeks to know, if I am the man living at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who made an offer at Cleveland of five hundred dollars, to have fifty queens fertilized in confinement; to both of which I reply in the affirmative.

When I made that offer, two persons, Mrs. Tupper and Dr. N. C. Mitchell, accepted the proposition; they both professed to be skilled in this direction. As the time approaches for Mitchell to fulfill his engagement, he refuses to comply, on the same ground that Mrs. Tupper does, viz: "Too little pay."

I think that five hundred dollars is a considerable sum of money to be paid for a few weeks services. But if this

Cleveland offer is not sufficiently remunerative, I will make a new one open to all, on condition that it is accepted before the first day of next May.

I will give five hundred dollars to any person who will come to my place at any time between the first day of next May and the first day of the following September, and cause *ten* queens to be fertilized in confinement.

It will be seen that by this I reduce the service to one-fifth of the original amount; yet I still agree to pay the *same* price. On this basis, the Cleveland offer would be twenty-five hundred dollars for fertilizing fifty queens. If it would require two months to accomplish this, it would only require two weeks to fertilize *ten* queens; so that my offer is now really *five times* better than the first one. I think this offer of sufficient consequence for Mr. King, or either of those two other parties, to leave home and render the service.

In all this I MEAN BUSINESS.

My facilities for bee keeping are of no mean order. I own near three hundred stocks of Italian bees, and I expect next season to run near three hundred nuclei breeding pure Italian queens, so that any person need not stay over two weeks to earn his money. During the breeding season I expect to have this number, or even fifty queens,

fertilized in less than the above specified time. With an experience of over twelve years in breeding and raising queens for the market, I am satisfied I can be instructed in this new method in a short time. I will agree, that two competent apiarists shall judge when the service is rendered in keeping with the terms of the offer, and the money to be paid.

I would refer the readers of this article to my advertisement in another column, where they will find the prices of pure Italian queens and pure Italian stocks, and also the extra charge I make for queens fertilized in confinement.

WM. H. FURMAN.

Cedar Rapids, Linn co., Iowa.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Irish Bee Keeping.

Mister Editor, and Jintlemen of the Bae Keeping Fraternity :—Its mesilf as would bae after sindin yer me experience, togatter with me darlint Jiddy (it is oursilves that's carrying on the aggricultural persoots and its verious branches, togeter wid tin ives of baes), and as mesilf is ginerly buzy wid the cattle, pooltry and odder sthock, Jiddy, me darlint, ginerly tinds to the baes, nate and dacent, as iver a ladys own hand in a "Jiffy."

First. Will, yez see, mesilf and Jiddy had some iligant

Buckey ives, and fearin the danger of loosin the swarms, after consultin wid ache odder, pitched into thim too swaram the last devil of them ourselves, and save thim the trouble of runing away and living in a hollough log, or some sich place. So, having arranged owl things and matters, be making mesilf an iligant bae hat, be sawing the lower ind of Jiddy's undercoat to the torp of the owld sive, and taking Jiddy's owld stockings for me gloves, wae completed me toilet. Thin, by the hilp of Jiddy's own hands, wae put on the owld garmint, wid the sifter before me eyes, and the ballance hanging down, like Jiddy's own nose. And what would yez be after thinkin, Mister Editer, Jiddy was sayin: a fine jintleman that I was, and I looked swate indeede in her owld, filthy coat. Jist, though shure, I looked like a stack pole, wid a sharit on it, to scare the crows wid the cornfauld.

Thin wae wint into the ives, and what do yez think would be the grating of the iligint jintleman wid the swate little creatures. Jiddy was houlding a large bucket, too resave the hoiny as I opened the doore, whin ivry divil of a bae in the ould ive set up the divelisterst whazzing that was iver herd of, and kivered Jiddy and mesilf entirely, and styngin us everywhere owl over, from me fate

to me hid. Jiddy comminced scammin and rowling round and round on the ground, and rouled hur head up in the cout tail, exposin a portion of her fate and ankles to the mercies of the little divils. And, Mister Editer, would yez be after belavin me, we both got sthung jist owl ovur. Jiddy could do nuthing but lay on the broad of her back, and mesilf nuthing but lane over hur for two long wakes.

Yez see, the baes got under me hat and in me hare, and Jiddy likewise the same; and me shirt and Jiddy's was sowed together, and all had to be pulled off to git rid of the critters, and yez may depind upon it, every divil of a bae was stinging me twice in the same place.

As I was hawlin away at me ould shirt, Jiddy was scammin, and mesilf was fitin with awl me mite, till some of me neighbors came up, but niver come near.

Will, after a few dayes illnys mesilf and Jiddy recovered, our baes cumminced swarmin on the ould plan by thimsilves. The first swarm that come was an iligant one, I till yez. But havin so racently had the divils own scrape wid em, yer see, I hired a nagger to ive thim, be givin him a pair of ould stockings, and tillin him that young baes niver had any stingers until they was two weeks ould.

Shure enaugh, the nagger cominced putting thim in the ive, whin I expected to see him kivered wid the whole swaram. But what do yez think—divil a bit of a bae sting did he ever git.

Will, after havin me own correct idays, I thought about the baes not stinging the black divil. I concluded to consult me darlin Jiddy that I had prably discivered an item, as meself was aimin to tell a small chunk of a sthory to the nagger, telling him that I belaved there was no stinger in young baes. But Jiddy said I was mistaken, and said she further: "My dear Mister O'Touls, yez must niver go near thim agin."

Me mind was not satysfied.

The nixt day, when Jiddy blowed the ould horn for dinner (Hiven bliss her swate soul) for meself and the colored jintleman, our baes was swarmin again. So sez I to the nagger: "Yez wooley hedded jintleman, yez ive the baes, while I gow for something to put on." Jiddy and I gracefully wint up stairs, to watch through the winder at him, and sich luck as attinded him again was niver herred of. Niver a sting did he iver rasave.

So, baring this in mind, I was shure Jiddy was wrong about young baes having stings like ould ones. So, upon the above reasonin, I deterimined to tist the matter, and amortalize meself nearly as a bae keeper.

So the Sunday morning fawling, in the prisence of me most highly estamed friends, Mister George Seward, Brad Howel, and George Lannel, who owl told me niver giv the divils up, and warrented me success in me adventure.

I made me intrance into the midst of the ives, when, o, the infernal and Mike O'Toule, every one of them kivered me, with a large number from odder swarams, and stinging me like the verey divil, me friends keeping clear away, tellin me to howld on, howld on to the infernal rascals. And the way I run was the most iligant a race of awl me life. But Jiddy and me friends rubbing meself wid medicines, I was able to attind to me bisness again in a shart time. Me frinds congratulated me, and assured me that awl new bisnesses were alwayes attinded with more or less misfortuns; and its meself that's done wid bae keeping for the prisent.

Now, Mister Editor and jintlemin, you may consider me out of the bae bisness. You may awl float in hony and whiz around—but far meself, I heve gat enough of thim, and so has me darlin Jiddy.

Now, Mister Editor, you can give meself and Jiddy's experience in bae keeping to the public, if yer pleeze.

Yez truly,

Indiani.

M. O'TOULS.

We would be pleased to hear from Mr. O'Touls again.—Ed.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Head Your Articles.

Messrs. Editors :—I suggest to our many friends and writers for the JOURNAL, that each and every one head their articles with whatever subject they write about. Many of us preserve all the JOURNALS, and often wish to refer to many subjects, and when, as it has been before the change of editors, most articles are headed: "A letter from Halifax," or "A letter from San Domingo," or some other place equally as strange, it is very difficult to find any particular subject.

We want all articles headed, and headed by the writer, and then there will be no fault finding with the editors. Also, when you write an article, sign your name, with post office, county, and State; so if you have told us something good or new, we will know just who you are, and where to find you, in case we wish to call or write to you for further particulars, etc., etc. And, to, when we see your name in full, it looks as though you were not ashamed to tell the truth, or let the world know it.

Many think it not important to give the *county*, but it is for this reason: The messengers on the trains arrange the mails by counties, and when the county is not on the letter, it is a great deal of trouble to look

over his list to find where the many thousands of letters are to go, and it is the same trouble to business men to write a letter and then hunt over his post office list to see where to direct your letter to.

Head your articles, and give your name and full address, and at the end of each volume the editor will give us an index to the whole, so that our great grandchildren (if we are ever fortunate enough to get married) can easily find the subjects we write on. And, Messrs. Editors, we want, too, at the end of each volume a list of all correspondents.

Respectfully,

H. NESBIT.

Cynthiana, Harrison Co., Ky.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Our Failures in Bee Keeping.

Our bees have died off to a great extent, both in the patent gums, and in the old fashioned round and square gums. There is quite a prejudice in our country against the patent gum of any kind, and when we, who are in advance and use the movable frame gum, meet with misfortunes and reverses, they are ready to cry: "Humbug! I knew it was a humbug. Give me the old round log gum;" and all such expressions—never considering for a moment the cause of our misfortunes. Not they, they are not of that class

who think or consider much; but we are gaining the ascendancy very fast.

If we could only get this class of persons to take and read our bee journals, and attend our bee keepers' conventions, I am satisfied they would wake up, and would not be found so far behind the times.

I commenced wintering twenty-one hives on their summer stands; they were protected on all sides except the south; they were all in good condition, so far as plenty to eat is concerned, and they seemed to do very well, until our last cold spell. After it was over, I examined them, and found eleven stands of bees dead. Upon examination I found plenty of honey, they did not starve to death, but I also found a great deal of ice in the back part of the hives, and on the sides. I came to the conclusion that the ice had accumulated during a warm spell, and when it turned so cold it chilled and froze my bees to death. This is my reasoning in the matter, and my remedy for it is this: Plenty of upward ventilation, and a good house to winter in. What say you, brother bee keepers? I have lost enough bees this winter to build two houses to winter them in.

Question.—As my hives that the bees died in have plenty of honey and nice comb in them, I wish to clean out all the dead

bees and rubbish, and transfer bees out of the old fashioned gums into them, thereby giving them a good start. Will this do? I know it will pay, if it will not turn out to be damaging to the bees so transferred.

V. P. GALE.

Nineveh, Johnson co., Ind.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bees in Texas.

Messrs. Editors:—I had the pleasure of late of perusing your JOURNAL for the first time. Have heard of it, though, often since I have given my attention to bee culture, through my neighbor bee keepers. I am much pleased with it, and have sent you my address and subscription for it for the present year. Your solicitation for contributions came under my observation too, and I will with pleasure give you a few items relative to apiculture.

The cultivation of the honey bee is in a very depressed condition as yet, few pay any attention to their *improved* culture, though I flatter myself that I have awakened some little interest therein since my debut as a reformer. I have disposed of over a hundred patent hives in my immediate neighborhood the past year. I am as yet a mere tyro in the pursuit myself, and have only had one year's practical experience. But by dint of close ob-

servation and careful study, have advanced myself far enough to class at least second rate. Though I feel that there is much for me to acquire yet, before I can claim to be an apiculturist proper.

Texans, like many other people, have heretofore only aspired to the "old method" of keeping bees, though I hear of a great many that have within the last year or so turned their attention to the business, viewing it in a far different light than was their wont. I wish them well, and may they labor as assiduously as I have to diffuse their advantages among their countrymen. I entered upon the pursuit last spring with five stands of common bees (our native bees are not black but grey), from those I obtained an average of two swarms each, hiving them in American hives, H. A. King's patent, and transferred the original stocks to same kind of hive. I had the best luck with them, not loosing a swarm. They made me a larger quantity of honey, than I had expected the first year. I promised that I would not expect much from them, but had I made the necessary preparations, and obtained an extractor, I do not know if I could not have averaged one hundred pounds to the hive. My locality is extraordinarily adapted to the wants of the honey bee.

In the month of July, 1871, I received an Italian queen bee from Messrs. King & Co., introduced her successfully, and soon afterwards got one from Mr. Nesbit. She was successfully introduced, also, but soon died, or was killed by part of another colony that I added to her stock to strengthen them. So I had but one left to commence Italianizing with. My yellow queen seeming to realize my anxiety that she should rear some drones, proceeded to depart from the contrary rule, and did raise a quantity of the "lusty fellows." I forthwith took advantage of the opportunity, and detached her from the colony to which I first gave her, and give her a new home, where, after the usual formalities of "introduction," she was received again. By this means I got two more queens, the progeny of which are pure beyond doubt, and one that unfortunately mated with a "sable gentleman."

Now I have three pure Italian stocks, and fourteen "blacks."

I would like to say something about our native bees, but am aware that I have consumed space enough for "my share." More anon.

Yours, respectfully,

J. KEMP.

Brenham, Washington co., Texas.
March 2d, 1872.

See premiums offered to clubs.

[For the National Bee Journal.]
Condition of the Bees.

Messrs. Editors:—As our section of Indiana has no representative in the State Convention, I thought I would send you a few lines, stating the condition of bees here at the present.

The mortality among bees in this neighborhood is about ten per cent., and that was, in most cases, with colonies that were divided in July and August. There being very little honey in September, the bees did not remove the honey from the outer edges of their combs into their winter quarters, as they commonly do in the fall. When the cold weather set in, they ate up what little honey that happened to be in the cluster. In most cases the diarrhea set in on the bees that formed the outer edge of the cluster, which hastened their death, leaving plenty of honey in their hives.

One of my neighbors fed his divided colonies with crushed sugar in the fall, and they wintered well.

In December I placed combs of honey to the cluster of bees in twenty-three hives, and they also wintered well.

I lost seven colonies out of forty-five divided around; they were some distance away from the house and could not be attended to. Fifty-two undivided

colonies had the best of health all winter.

Yours, respectfully,
 WM. FAULKNER.
 Vevay, Ind., March 15, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.]
Questions.

1. Is a drone hatched from the egg of a virgin queen a male bee in every sense of the word?

This may be easily tested if fertilization in confinement proves a success.

2. Does the germ of life imparted by the queen need any portion of spermatozoa to perfect the male sex, and if not, on what principle is a dash of foreign blood caused to course through the veins of the male bee, where the mother has copulated with a foreign or mixed race?

3. Do any ties of consanguinity exist, where no spermatozoa of the male has come in contact with the life giving power of the mother?

A. SALISBURY.

Camargo, Ill.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Nucleus Box.

Messrs. Editors:—I said I would give you a description of my nucleus box, or, as I call it: "Queen Hive." It is as follows:

I first make a box hive, one and one-fourth inches higher

inside than my frames. The bottom board is made to project from two to three inches on both sides of the hive, for the bees to alight on. The top inside edges of the front and back boards are rabbeted, to allow the frames to hang as in an ordinary hive. The ends are made of boards as high as the front and back.

I make this queen hive to hold ten or fifteen nuclei at once, and this is accomplished as follows: Divide it off into compartments beginning at one end, thus: Space for three frames (the top bars of mine are one and a half inches across) four and a half inches, then one-half inch extra space to enable me to lift out the frames. Then comes the partition, which is made of one-half inch board, so as to slide into its place from the top of the hive, fitting into a groove cut perpendicularly in the front and back boards inside. The top of this partition comes up as high as the sides and ends of the hive, while the bottom edge fits snugly across the bottom board of the hive. Cut a hole in the center of this partition, say eight by ten inches, and cover one side with wire cloth. Also make a board to fit the hole (eight by ten inches), let in flush. So the first compartment is made. First, four and a half inches for frames, then one-half inch space, then one-half inch

partition. Make as many spaces of the same sizes, divided by similar partitions, as long as the box will allow, say from ten to fifteen. Make the entrance holes alternately on both sides of the hive, so that they shall not all be close together. The cover is a board fitted flat down on top of the hive, projecting over the ends and sides far enough to receive cleats, nailed all around on the under side, to keep it in its place. Make a three-quarter of an inch augur hole in the cover over every space, covering the bottoms of the holes with wire cloth, and stop up the holes with a cork on the upper side, when not used as ventilators. The cork excludes rain, dust, and everything. Set the hive on legs projecting diagonally downwards from the ends, so as to insure a firm support.

Now, when we wish to use it, take one frame of brood in all stages from each of three strong hives, with bees adhering, put them into the first space or compartment next the end-slide in the partition board, *with the board placed in the eight by ten inch hole*. Proceed in the same way to fill up all the spaces, or as many as wanted. Put on the cover, and let the nuclei remain *six* days, at the end of which time open it, and destroy all the queen cells; then close up again, and let it

remain *two* days longer, at the end of which time open, and give each nuclei a capped queen cell from the hive from which you wish to breed, or the *best* hive you have. (Of course, this hive has been divided before, generally one day after making nuclei, and the queen cells are now ready to cut out and insert.)

When you insert queen cells, *take the eight by ten board out of the holes in the partitions*, leaving each nucleus divided only by the wire cloth panels. By this means we equalize the heat all through the body of the hive, and the queens, when hatched, will be as strong and prolific as those raised in full and separate colonies.

After the first lot of queens are hatched, we can repeat the process every six or seven days, and keep their nuclei for queen rearing all summer, or as long as we want to, and then in the fall we can put the whole thing in the cellar or wintering house, with a colony and queen in each of the compartments, and these small colonies will do fully as well as large separate ones, for each has the benefit of the warmth of its neighbors.

The hive is simple, plain, cheap, and is susceptible of a variety of manipulations, which will readily suggest itself to the queen raiser. No patent.

"WELSH."

Guilford, Iowa.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Experience in Bee Keeping.

Messrs. Editors:—I do not claim the infallibility of the Pope, yet I can not think there will be any harm in giving my reasons for believing that in natural swarming the queen deposits the eggs in the royal cells. This is a free country; every one has a perfect right to his or her private opinions, and they also have a right to express those opinions freely. The public must take them for what they are worth, they (the public) being their own judges.

In the first place, the eggs are deposited in royal cells frequently when said cells are wide mouthed, or in the form of a tea saucer or acorn cup. The eggs are set on end and glued fast in the same manner, they are in worker and drone cells. Occasionally they are laid on the side, the same as they are sometimes in worker and drone cells. So far, so good. Recollect, that at this stage of the proceedings, the queen is still in the hive, and the eggs are deposited in the incipient royal cell (not the cell built around an egg in a worker cell). Those cells are completed by the workers after the royal larvæ has hatched. Now, take particular notice that we have not yet stated whether those eggs were deposited there either by the

queen or workers, yet it is a fact they are there, no mistake about that fact; and those eggs are not all deposited at one time. But at the time the swarm leaves, we frequently find sealed queen cells, and queen cells with larvæ just hatched, etc.

Now, we will deprive a strong stock of their queen, and we will deprive them, at the same time, of all their brood. Now we will give this stock a card, containing eggs just laid, and eggs only. (Sealed brood left in the hive will not interfere with our experiment.) Twenty-four hours after this deprivation, we examine, and we will be very apt to find those incipient royal cells (especially if we have given them new comb partly finished) on the edges of the comb. There is nothing in them, and there is no royal cells built, or even started over the eggs in the worker comb. The bees seem to be very busy over those incipient royal cells. Now, as soon as the eggs commence hatching in the worker cells, the workers abandon those false or incipient royal cells and commence royal cells over the larvæ just hatched. I have never yet seen a cell commenced over the egg, and Mr. Benedict tells us the same.

Now comes a question: If the workers are such adepts at transferring eggs to royal cells

while they have their queen with them, why don't the confounded little fools try their hands at it when they have no queen in the hive, but plenty of eggs; and why do they devote so much time to royal cells and then abandon them? I have cut out all royal cells from a strong stock at night, and on the following morning, before seven o'clock, out came a swarm, and on examining I found some twenty-three or twenty-four incipient royal cells built over night, sixteen of those cells had eggs in them. Now, why did not the workers transfer eggs to those other cells after the queen had departed, if that is their business?

Now you come in with another question. You will probably say that you do not believe the queen deposits those eggs in the royal cells, because how is her abdomen compressed while doing so; consequently the egg can not be fertilized, and must hatch out a drone. Now we will answer that by saying, that we have had hundreds of cases where the queen, for want of room, has deposited eggs in incipient worker cells not over one-sixteenth of an inch in depth; still those cells were completed, and those eggs hatched out perfect workers. So you perceive, we are compelled to be an unbeliever in the compression theory. Facts are sometimes mighty stubborn

against theory.—We are perfectly willing to allow that the Supreme Ruler of the Universe did not leave those things to chance.

Furthermore: The theory of the intense hatred of a queen to a rival, proves (as we have before shown) *too much*. Why not allow that the queen (in natural swarming) has made up her mind that she has got to leave the old colony, and so deposits eggs in the cells which the workers have prepared, in order to perpetuate their species. To me this looks reasonable and according to nature, because it is a well known fact that the workers will not tolerate royal cells in a hive, only on certain occasions; still at swarming times they will. Then why not allow that the queen will tolerate them at certain times, and under certain circumstances.

We are well aware of what Mrs. Tupper says about having an egg transferred at a certain time to a royal cell; but we read her statement and know that there was quite a probability that it was the larvæ that was transferred instead of the egg. Still we are not prepared to state that there never has been an isolated case of transferring the egg. In all our experience we have had two cases of workers transferring larvæ from worker to royal cells, and we have had quite a

number of cases of workers transferring larvæ from one comb to another, and we have had any quantity of cases of workers cleaning out eggs to make room for honey; but not transferring.

We have tried this so many times, and in so many different ways, to see if the bees would not transfer eggs to royal cells, and always failed to find eggs in royal cells when there was no queen there, and we always find eggs in royal cells if we look at the right time in natural swarming, that we, for one, are constrained to believe that the queen deposits them there at the proper time. Any cells started after the swarm has left, are always started over the larvæ, and not over the eggs, at least that is what I have always observed. In natural swarming the royal cells are built on the edges of the cards of comb, in passage ways in the comb, and sometimes attached to the side of the hive, the side of the frame, and bottom bar to frame. While, if the queen is forced out, and the bees are compelled to build queen cells, all the occupied cells are built on worker comb, and over worker larvæ, etc.

The above is simply my opinion, after as close observation for a series of seasons as I could possibly make. The reader will understand, that as the queen only deposits eggs in royal

cells at swarming time, or certain seasons of the year, and then only in a limited quantity of cells, there is nothing strange about one not seeing her in the act of depositing the egg in the royal cell, for that process only occupies her about a second of time. Mr. Doolittle gives a case of actually seeing the performance. I came very near seeing it, and Mr. Grimm's case is another one to the purpose. But I consider the circumstantial evidence strong enough to suit me. Whether I am correct or not, will neither make one hair white or black. If we should not be correct in our conclusions, we still can make bee keeping profitable.

E. GALLUP.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

Bees in Utah.

Messrs. Editors:—I see in your BEE JOURNAL, No. 3, page 87, a report from Utah, which I venture to correct. I emigrated to this country in 1869, when there were but a few stands of bees in the Territory, perhaps about fifty stands. I found that bee keeping had almost proved a failure previous to my immigration. I have made it my business for the past twelve years, principally in the State of Maine, to work with bees a great part of my time. I also traveled throughout the coun-

try, tending and transferring bees.

I use the Kidder & Clark patent movable comb hives, which, in my private opinion, have not been surpassed in cost, easiness of construction, and management. I introduced this hive into Utah in 1870. When I came here, I found most of the bee keepers using old box hives, but some were using Harbison's, of Sacramento, Cal. Since my arrival, the greater portion of the bee keepers in Salt Lake City and vicinity, where myself and my agents have the care of a good part of the bees, have become favorably impressed with Kidder's hives, and are purchasing them.

Up to this time I have yet failed to see or hear of the large yield of honey and of bees, represented by a correspondent in your journal. The largest yield that has come under my personal observation so far, was from two stands which produced six swarms; in one season I took from them (with extractors) seventy-five pounds of honey. One other stand, owned by another party, produced four stands, but no surplus honey. How far apiculture will prove a success in this country, is yet to be proven; but I believe, that with good management bee culture in this section can be elevated to a paying basis, if the basswood tree can be cultivated as

shade tree, and other honey producing plants.

Having read a piece headed "Black Mail," I wish to say a few words in relation thereto. I obtained a farm right of Mr. R. P. Kidder, of Burlington, in 1863, there being two patents on the hive. Since that time he has added three other patents to the hive, which I have had the benefit of without any extra charges, and for which I feel grateful. Bee keepers would be back in the dark ages, with old log gums, had it not been for inventors who have spent time and money to experiment, and who have invented the present most valuable hives. If my friend Goodlander will take the course that I have taken, he will never have any trouble with those "vampires," as he calls them. I found a hive that pleased me, and then procured the Patent Office Reports and convinced myself that the man claiming the patent had really obtained the same from the office at Washington; when I found he had, I paid him for it, and it has paid me three times over every year I have used them. But if a man sees his neighbor using a good patent hive, he must expect to be called upon by the class he speaks of. As for me, I will buy every patent that I see and like, and put it into use and make money in so doing; but I will try and be

sure to buy of the rightful owner, and not of those who are trying to steal other persons patents.

I say, God bless the inventors, and may they go on to perfection. I will be ready to investigate their improvements, and if I like them, will buy their inventions, and not try to steal them, or do without them three or four years, when perhaps they will pay three or four times their cost every year. What of a few dollars for an improvement that will pay well; let others do without it, or use other folks improvements without purchasing them, and lay themselves liable to a penalty.

I love the honey bee, it is a part of my nature to be with them and handle them. When a boy, I would sit for hours and watch them work. But as well as I love to work with them, I would not have anything to do with them if I had not a good movable comb hive. All I have to say is, that those who do not want a good hive with all the improvements they can use, let them use log gums and hold their peace.

Our bees are very low in number this spring, on account of the drought last fall. The queens stopped breeding very early. The winter has been mild, with the exception of three days, when the thermometer was eleven degrees be-

low zero, when small stands were frozen. We anticipate a good season this year.

Respectfully, yours,

S. H. PUTNAM.

Salt Lake City, Feb. 27, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bee Notes.

Messrs. Editors:—As many other bee keepers are giving their experience through the pages of the BEE JOURNAL, I thought it not out of place to give mine also.

With us the past season has been a very poor one—the poorest for some years, especially the latter part. There was but a few days during the early part of the season that bees stored much honey. During the month of June, the weather being so changeable, the bees cast but very few swarms until July. The season being so short, many of these failed to secure enough for winter; so that bees were, as a general thing, not in very good condition for winter.

I put my bees in winter quarters about November 20th, in pretty good condition, as I thought; but the long cold weather seems to have taken effect on them for the worse. Some three weeks ago I examined mine, and found some dead, with the combs pretty badly tainted with their excrement, leaving a bad smell in

the hives. This seemed a little strange to me, that weak stocks should perish in this condition, while stronger stocks, by their side, were in health. As soon as I discovered their condition, I watched a chance for a pleasant day, and set them out to have a good fly, which seems to have done them a great deal of good.

I am now feeding them extracted honey from last season, and rye flour, from the top of the hive, which they carry down readily, and are breeding nicely for this time of the year. I expect to feed them until the flowers come. This proceeding will reachly reward me for expenses and trouble.

There has been a general malady among bees in this locality this winter; some have lost a part of their bees, while others have lost all.

COMB GUIDES.

I have hit upon a plan for constructing wax comb guides on the frame, equal, as I think, to any patented instrument now in use, warranted cheaper, and as effectual as any in use. Full information given on the receipt of three stamps, as my time costs me that.

Success to the JOURNAL for ever. Give us a weekly as soon as possible.

Yours,

E. J. WORST.

New Pittsburg, Wayne co., Ohio.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bee Knowledge.

Messrs. Editors:—I began the pursuit of apiculture last June, and consequently have my head full of bee knowledge. I have had some sad experience in the business. At one time, when I was working with the bees, I blew my breath among them, and I was consequently stung permiscuously on seven different spots by them. From this circumstance I learned the maxim, that people should not blow their breath on the bees, for it makes them angry.

I use the Farmer's bee hive, which is the most convenient hive I have ever seen for handling bees, though other hives possess advantages over it in some respects.

My bees wintered safely. When I put them into winter quarters I enclosed the hives in boxes made of old boards, leaving two inches of space between the hives and outer chambers. I then filled the empty space with saw-dust, nailed a cleat over the entrance to prevent the saw-dust from closing it, and left an upper and lower ventilation; I then covered the hives with boards, to shield them from the weather. This is the best way to winter bees; they will do as well as in a forest tree.

I learned from an old bee keeper, that the cause of so

many bees dying last winter, was from poisonous honey-dew gathered by the bees last fall. One kind of honey-dew is produced by small white insects that cluster on beech trees, commonly called beech-lice. Some suppose that it is the honey-dew that caused the disentry among bees. I think not, for the prevailing epidemic in the middle and western States extended over localities where those insects had no existence, on the prairies for instance. These poisonous dews are distilled from the atmosphere, and it is evident that they fall in autumn. If the disease was caused by honey gathered from said dew, why did not the bees die before winter? They did die before winter, and have been gradually dying ever since they gathered the honey. When a bee is ready to die, it gets out of the hive and flies far away. As a general rule, bees will not die in the hive if they can get out. This accounts for the phenomenon of so many bees flying from hives last winter, and never returning. I am satisfied of this fact from the following experiment: I closed the entrance of a hive with a piece of wire cloth; some bees congregated at the entrance, but could not be induced to go back, and died there. The next day I removed the wire cloth, and some restless bees crawled out, and died on the snow; a

few took wing and never returned, they were bent on dying. When the weather was very cold, many bees died in the hives; this increased the contagion within, and consequently many colonies perished.

Now, I propose the following as a preventative of the disease: Reserve some frames of honey that the bees gather in June or July. When you put your bees into winter quarters, remove a majority of the combs, and insert the reserved combs. This honey being pure, the bees will escape the disease.

A. H. NICHOLAS.

Rushville, Rush Co., Ind.

[For the National Bee Journal.]

A Proposition.

Messrs. Editors:—On page 418, Vol. II, where Mr. Benedict, in reviewing Mr. John M. Follett's article on page 344, says: "I claim that an impregnated queen's drones" (he doubtless means *unimpregnated* or *virgin* queens) "can not propagate their species. I have had a fair chance to test such drones." I have had quite a number of opportunities of proving that the drones from a virgin or unimpregnated queen, when reared in drone comb, are just as good and perfect as any drones, and capable of propagating their species.

The queen's drones, by which

Mr. Follett tested this matter, was a queen that I sent him, in order that he might rear a supply of pure Italian drones. There were no Italian bees within eight miles of him. So his young black queen must have mated with the drones from this *virgin* queen.

I have so much confidence in the drones from an unimpregnated or *virgin* queen being virile, that I will make friend Benedict the following proposition: He to take a young virgin queen, *clip* her wings, to prevent her meeting the drones when she begins laying; take her to some apiary where there are none but black bees, and let her deposit her eggs in drone comb; mate young black queens with her drones, and if they do not become impregnated by them, I will allow him to choose a queen from any breeder in America, and I will pay for her. If the drones prove efficient, or capable of fertilizing queens, I will choose a queen from any queen breeder in America, and he is to pay for her.

I will extend the same proposition to Mr. A. F. Moon, as I remember reading an article from his pen in the *Western Rural*, in which he admits that virgin queens and fertile workers are capable of rearing drones, but that they are worthless.

I doubt very much, whether

either of the gentlemen would be willing to risk drones from a virgin black queen, or fertile worker, among their Italians, or fertile worker from a hybrid queen. This might throw some light on the "knotty" question.

Truly, yours,

T. G. MCGAW.

Monmouth, Ill., Jan. 31, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Lost My Queen.

Messrs. Editors: — As you ask all to write for the JOURNAL, I will give you a sample of my scribbling.

I feel a deep interest in the success of the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL, and would be glad to see it come every week. Suppose every subscriber would send in one name in addition to his own, would this enable you to make it a weekly? If so, just say the word, and I feel sure it will be done. There are any number of men and women all over the land who only want to get a taste of JOURNAL reading to make subscribers of them. In fact, it is like chewing tobacco, or drinking rum—very hard to quit.

I have commenced the study of beeology. My friends say, that I have got bee on the brain. Be this as it may, I believe I will "go in lemons, if I do get squeezed." My experience in bee raising thus far, is about like the negroes luck in

growing potatoes: he planted a peck, and when he dug them, he found he had just a peck, and was very glad he had not gone back any in the business. I started out last spring with five stands; had one natural swarm, and made two artificial. The natural swarm came off on the 15th of June, and settled on a peach tree limb, bending it nearly to the ground. I put them in a movable comb hive, and as soon as they were all in carried them about a hundred feet, and set them in the shade of some peach trees. They went to work in good earnest, and filled their ten frames and one cap box with comb and partially with honey. Then I thought that it was about time for me to follow the example of the big bee men, and to Italianize them. So I bought, about the first of October, a beautiful queen of Messrs. Gray & Winder, destroyed the black one, placed my new Italian queen in the hive, according to directions, and kept her there for five days. I then released her, when the black rascals went to work and killed her.

It was then so late in the season, that they had no brood to rear another queen. So I put them in with one of my artificial swarms; but they were like the two Kilkenny cats, they went to fighting, and fought on until there was nothing left but two tails, and they

still kept on jumping at one another. This accounts for two swarms.

The other artificial swarm stayed and worked some, but finally concluded to move their washing, picked up, went to Bro. Langstroth's apiary, and forgot to come back. So I have the five old stands left, but two of them very weak.

We have had two very dry seasons here, and it took hard scratching for the bees to gather honey enough to take them through this long, cold winter.

Somewhere, away back in one of the JOURNALS, some writer says, that queens after mating with drones, go back into their hives, and stay there until they are superceded or lead out a swarm. Now, I will bet my old hat that I can go to any apiary in the United States during the working season, and show the owner every queen that can fly out on the wing at least twice a week. Any apiarian can convince himself of this fact, by putting his bee hat on and sitting down by any stand of his bees when he sees them out playing. If he carefully watches, he will see her pass out. But if the queen is out before he gets to the hive, all he has to do is to keep a sharp lookout, and in about from five to fifteen minutes she will be seen going in again, when the bees will become

quiet, and go on with their work as before. I watched my bees last season, with watch in hand, and saw the queens pass out and in frequently. Whether they go out for exercise, or some other purpose, I am unable to say.

JOHN R. LEE.

Oxford, Ohio, March 10, 1872.

[For the National Bee Journal.

Bee Prospects in Michigan.

Messrs. Editors:—It is said that "misery loves company," and as I notice among the varied and interesting correspondence published in your JOURNAL, that many have lost bees during the present winter, it will not be out of place to say that they have the sympathy of several in this locality, who have suffered in the same way, and among them your humble servant. The epidemic—if it may be proper to use such a word in this respect—seems to be wide-spread and disastrous. Many in this neighborhood, who at the close of last summer had, to all appearance, fine, healthy, strong-looking swarms, are to-day without a single bee. The hum of the little busy workers, which made music to the ears of their owners, flattering them with the prospect of an increase in colonies, and a bountiful harvest of honey, is gone, and their proprietors left grievously disappointed. In all cases that I have heard of, the hives were

well supplied with honey, but in a more or less frozen condition. One gentleman told me that a year ago he had about forty swarms, and his stock has perished to all but about two or three, and he does not expect to carry these few through successfully. In my own case I have found one hive with plenty of honey, in a somewhat congealed state, and the bees adhering to the comb, completely frozen; in another one, not so much honey, but the comb free from dampness, and the bees all dead; while there are numbers of others who have suffered in the same manner more or less. The hives used in all cases being the old fashioned box hive. Some think that the fires which prevailed in the woods last summer, creating an intense smoke during the latter part of the season, has been the cause of the trouble here, by affecting them with a sort of stupor, and depriving them of their usual energy to take care of themselves. One thing is certain, we have had a very severe winter—at times intensely cold—and perhaps both circumstances may have produced the effect. I should like to hear your opinion on this matter as well as that of some of your old and experienced correspondents, with a word of advice under the circumstances. However, notwithstanding all these discouraging and depressing effects—

particularly as to young beginners—I may mention that one factory in this place has, during the winter, cut out material for about five hundred hives, and that not on speculation either, but to fill actual orders for parties living in this county. The style being Mr. H. A. King's "American Hive," and the "Thomas Hive." Another hive, however, is soon to make its appearance here as a candidate for public favor, and that is Mr. Will. R. King's "Triumph Hive," which I notice some of your correspondents speak well of.

Yours fraternally,

CHAS. FELLOWS.

Flint, Michigan, March 18, 1872.

—The smoke in the woods had nothing to do with killing the bees. Judging from your statement of facts, your bees either had the dysentery, or froze to death. The dysentery has destroyed many colonies the past winter, which our apiarians will guard against hereafter by proper means, which we will inform them of in due time. The cause, or main cause of dysentery is in the food which they gather. Sometimes it is in thin honey, and also in thick. It will physic the bees if retained too long without their discharging their excrements. Were the bees permitted to fly every three or four weeks, they never would have it.—Ed.

[For the National Bee Journal.
Bees in Tennessee.

Messrs. Editors:—A few bee notes from this section would, I am sure, prove acceptable. Let me first express the hope that the number of your Southern correspondents may largely increase; for though much interested in the reports from all parts of our country, and much instructed thereby, we are more especially interested in the items from Southern sources. It is there “we live, move, and have our being,” and our apiary also. And, however much we may have the good of the fraternity at large at heart, (and what bee keeper has not?) there is a little fraternity of one whose good is always uppermost, or thereabouts.

Our bees brought in their first pollen February 27th, fully three weeks later than last year. But, sirs, that is not the worst of it, “by any manner of means.” Since they have begun to collect pollen, they have had but about three days in which the weather was sufficiently warm. You may know by this that dame nature has for the last few weeks been unusually fitful and fickle: First as bright and lovely as a maiden’s dream; then as cold and cheerless as a bachelor’s reverie; lastly as frantic and un pitying as the maniac’s rage. Only yesterday, we awoke to

find the earth mantled in snow, and still drifting and driving down at a rate that would do credit to our Western plains! To-day the snow is fast disappearing under the genial influence of the midday sun.

Our bees are wintered on their summer stands. We do not think of housing them, when our winters are mild enough almost without exception, for the bees to fly a week in uninterrupted succession. The past winter ours flew out freely, day by day, for nearly two weeks, and seemed to be all the better for it. We did not stimulate then; but have since, till most of our colonies have bred up considerably—will not say towards the swarming point—for we do not intend to let them swarm.

May we thank you for promptitude and dispatch *shown* in publishing and mailing the JOURNAL to subscribers. You are *meriting* bountiful success, though you should fail to secure it; but that is hardly possible.

J. P. PARKER.

Henry Station, Tenn., March 24, 1872.

For a fine collection of books, please notice J. H. V. Smith’s advertising card in the JOURNAL. It consists of School, Miscellaneous, Sunday School, Church and Sunday School Singing Books. Also, Stationery, of all kinds.

EDITORS' TABLE.

We again go to press with a much larger number of communications on hand than ever before. Yet one thing will be gratifying to our readers, to know that our friends are becoming better acquainted with their own interests, and the interests of the JOURNAL also, than heretofore. All the articles lately received are brief and excellent, which is the life of any paper. We have a large corps of correspondents, from the most experienced in America, down to the new beginner. From the latter we have on hand a few articles that will appear in our next. We are happy to hear from them. Any question they may ask, will be responded to by the more experienced, which will give them all the light they need.

Some of our correspondents request that we should give our experience on artificial swarming, as represented at the Cleveland Convention. We will here say, that the report of the convention was wrong; but we will give it in time to benefit all. Our columns are too crowded at present.

We call the attention of our readers to our premium list and clubbing rates on second page of first cover. Great inducements to those getting up of clubs.

During the past month we have received several letters asking when the report of the Cleveland Convention will appear. We will say, the matter is in the hands of the Publishing Committee, and we are looking for it soon.

Mr. R. A. Parker, of Abingdon, Ill., asks the following question: "Why do bees in some hives cut their dead to pieces, as fine as bran, while in others they do not?" We hope some of our friends of much experience will answer through the JOURNAL.

GEO. B. WALLACE, Lewis, Cass county, Iowa, writes: "Bees have not wintered well here. I think owing to going into winter quarters too full of honey, though it is remarkably cold. I wish Hosmer would give all the particulars as to how he propagates and winters bees, through the JOURNAL."

If you want to make money, read the NATIONAL BEE JOURNAL. You will find in it ways and means to make and save hundreds of dollars annually in apiculture. No bee keeper can afford to be without it.

In answer to the many questions asked us, when will our book on Bee Keeping be ready for delivery? we will say that we are about ready for the press. The book will contain the Autobiography and Personal Experience of A. F. Moon. It will be gotten up cheap, which will enable every one to read the book. It will contain facts that every Bee man should read.

B. M. GREIDER wishes to know how to induce bees to take up rye flour in the spring of the year. We find no difficulty in getting them to gather it, by sprinkling sweetened water or a little honey upon it. It should stand in a place sheltered from the wind, and but a rod or two from the hives.

THE ROCK RIVER FARMER.—The March number of this most excellent and substantial agricultural monthly, is on our table. It is printed on good paper, cut, stitched, and embellished with fine engravings; is edited with judgment and ability, and possesses a corps of correspondents who are eminently practical men, discussing practical questions from the

standpoint of actual experience. One dollar a year. Specimen copies sent free. Address: W. M. Kennedy, Publisher, Dixon, Ills.

Persons sending money for clover seed, will please add eight cents to pay postage, making the cost of it forty-three cents per pound, which is the price we pay for it. Those preferring to have it sent by express, can do so and pay charges on delivery, but it will cost them more. We furnish clover seed to our subscribers at cost, and hope our friends will return the favor by sending along a few new subscribers.

W. D. ROBERTS, Provo City, Utah, requests us to answer, through the columns of the JOURNAL, the following question: He says, "I would like to know who has the exclusive right to the bevel edge in movable comb frames?" We have been to some trouble to ascertain the facts in the case, and find that there has been but one patent granted for bevel edge in movable frames, and that only when combined with a slot, in said frame. This was to Clark, and is now owned by K. P. Kidder. The plain bevel edge is not patentable, as any inventor of movable comb hives will testify. If there is any one who has a patent on bevel edge frames, please inform us.

READ THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONIALS.

New Bedford, Mass., July 7, 1871.

J. L. PEABODY & Co.—I have now had your excellent machine long enough to have given it a fair trial. It is the perfection of simplicity, and works admirably.

July 22, 1871.—The Extractor continues to give the greatest satisfaction. I have taken from my eight original hives one hundred and fifty pounds more honey than I could have taken if I had relied entirely upon surplus boxes. DR. E. P. ABBE.

Lowell, Ky., May 10, 1871.

J. L. PEABODY & Co.—I received your Honey Extractor April 28, and gave it a trial immediately, in the presence of several friends. The day was cold for the time of year, and the honey being old, was rather tough. The frame was also 11 by 18, which I thought would not work in the Extractor. But when I gave it a turn, out flew the honey to the satisfaction of all present. The unsealed brood, larvæ, and eggs, that were in the comb, were not hurt. I feel safe in recommending this machine.

R. M. ARGO.

Medina, Ohio, Nov. 16, 1871.

MR. PEABODY.—In answer to your inquiry, how we like your Extractor, we would say that it answers the purpose perfectly in our own apiary, and that every one which we have sold is giving perfect satisfaction. No instructions are necessary at all in using it.

We at first thought it rather high priced at fifteen dollars, but after making careful estimates of each part, from our own practical knowledge of mechanical work, we decided that a machine so neatly and durably finished could not well be made for less money. A. I. ROOR & Co.

Borodino, N. Y., Oct. 12, 1871.

This is to certify, that I have used one of J. L. Peabody's Honey Extractors the present season with perfect satisfaction. In fact, I consider it ahead of any I have ever seen or tried. Previous to June 24, I took out six hundred pounds of honey, most of which was old. Can take out 95 per cent. of old, and 98 per cent. of new honey. The machine is easily

turned, and revolves on a central pivot, consequently no grease from the gearing can get into the honey. The combs are easily put in and taken out of the machine, and it will last a lifetime. It is easily cleaned, and I consider it indispensable to any one using the movable frame hive.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

St. Dennis, Md., June 12, 1871.

J. L. PEABODY & Co.—After giving your machine a fair trial. I can truly say, that it has far exceeded my expectations, both in the ease with which it is worked, and the thorough and rapid manner in which it extracts the honey. I have, since the 28th of May (in fifteen days) extracted from seven hives four hundred and ninety pounds of honey, without breaking a single comb in the machine. Its construction is so simple and strong, that I do not see how it can get out of order.

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ITALIAN QUEENS, bred in full colonies, and warranted pure. For price-list, etc., address, with stamp, to T. H. B. Woody, Manchester, St. Louis Co., Mo.

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The best, most desirable and cheapest Geared Machine in the market. It will empty as much honey with the least injury to the comb as any other machine in use. Also all kinds and sizes of honey boxes, cut ready to nail together (out of white pine,) as cheap as the cheapest. Send stamp for terms, etc. Address

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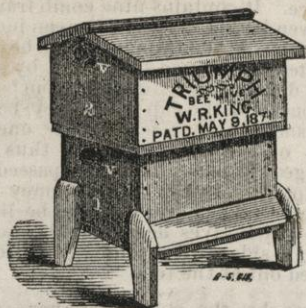
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