

token the Chicago Evening Journal and other journals may object to his using it, and the American Agriculturist and other "American" papers may take away the first word of his title leaving him only the word "Bee" in which he claims no special proprietorship.

We have taken up this much space with this matter because we do not wish to lie under the imputation of being *unjust* and desire to obey the injunction of Paul: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." We hope friend Newman will reconsider and readjust his views, and assure him of nothing but the kindest feelings on our part.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

I HAVE good reason to believe that generally throughout this Province bees are shorter of stores this winter than they have been for many years. As a consequence there will certainly be an unusual loss from starvation between this and the middle of May if bee-keepers do not take warning and act accordingly. Last summer there seems to have been a pretty general failure of the honey yield about the last of July, and that for Ontario was about five or six weeks earlier than usual. The consequence was that in every apiary where the honey extractor is used, the bees were found in the fall to be very short of winter stores. Those who fed early in the fall and fed what they considered at the time to be plenty, found later on that there had been an unusual fall consumption and that the bees were again short and had to be fed again. The unusual fall consumption was owing to the fact that the bees got next to nothing in the fields during the whole fall, while generally if the weather is at all favorable they pick up enough to partly keep them going at least. The actual fall consumption was probably no more than usual—indeed perhaps not so much as there was less brooding—but as it had all to be derived from the home stores, the consumption appeared much greater to us. This is why the bee-keeper had to feed and feed, and feed again, during the fall, and with all the feeding many are, no doubt, short. I supposed I had given mine plenty. I supposed that most of them had enough to carry them right through to the fruit-bloom, and that the lightest had at least enough to put them through to the setting out time, say the middle of April. In putting them away in the cellar I always put these lighter ones on the top tier for two reasons: first, to be accessible so that they

can be got at to feed if they need it; and second, they will be in a more comfortable temperature and better air on top. While looking in at them the other day to see that all was right, I noticed that a very unusual quantity of dead bees had fallen down from one of the upper hives, and upon examination found the colony quite dead. I removed it from the apartment and soon discovered that it had starved to death—the honey having been all consumed and apparently considerable pollen. The combs are in good condition and there is no sign of disease or of recent brooding. As I could discover no cause which might have led to an unusually large consumption of stores in that particular colony, I, of course, began to feel solicitous about others. Still I am quite well aware from past experience that rarely a colony will consume much more stores than others in apparently like conditions. At any rate, I do not remember that I ever had a colony before to starve in the cellar. I have had one or two to starve outside, but never in comfortable quarters. Let all bee-keepers who use the honey extractor look after their bees between this and setting out time to see that they do not starve. And I would here suggest, Mr. Editor, that you supplement this warning with definite instructions how to prepare both liquid and solid food and how best to feed it. Such information will be timely and will, no doubt, be imperatively required by many inexperienced readers.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont., February 9th, 1886.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

DOES IT PAY TO KEEP BEES?

WHIS question has been going the round in bee journals more or less directly and receives very conflicting replies. Are these replies not the result of undue deliberation? In order to discuss the question intelligently and upon a proper basis it must be understood in this way. In the average locality can bee-keeping be made to pay? Were you to ask can a man make it pay, knowing nothing of bees and desirous of working a few colonies according to the improved methods as given in standard works and bee journals, a man ready to profit by the advice of older and better bee-keepers and give his investment that care and attention which he must a proportionate outlay in a farm or business? Who would not say such an investment will pay, and as his apiary increases, his experience and dexterity in manipulating will increase.

Were he to commence with 50 or 100 colonies in that way an emphatic *no* would be the general reply. Devote one year, far better two, to gaining