



"THE GREATEST POSSIBLE GOOD TO THE GREATEST POSSIBLE NUMBER."

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EDITORIAL.

Honey Dew Plentiful.

LOOK out for honey dew at this season. Walking down the street the other morning we noticed damp looking spots on the sidewalk, and remarked at the time that it looked like the droppings of *aphide*, or plant louse. The spots were under a thrifty second growth basswood tree, planted about eight years ago, the trunk eight or ten inches in diameter, with a large fine top. We looked up in the tree among the leaves for some time to find the insects that were discharging the sweet substance, and at last, on the under side of a limb, we noticed a large number of insects clustered together, and covering the under side a limb for a foot or more. They were so near the color of the basswood bark that it was difficult to see them. Taking a sheet of paper out of our pocket and holding it underneath the limb, we had before long a number of small drops on the paper. It was easy to see where the sweet substance was coming from, that was not only attracting the flies in large numbers, but also bees and wasps. After

examining this tree we went to another, some distance off, and there found that more of the same liquid had dropped on the sidewalk in various places. The grass under the tree was quite sticky, and flies seemed to be doing a land office business round these particular spots. We have not had time to examine in the woods, but feel satisfied that honey dew is likely to be quite plentiful; and right here, let us say, in every locality as soon as the basswood is over, take out all the honey, if you are extracting, that you intend to remove before it gets mixed with honey dew. Now, in localities where Canadian thistles abound, no doubt large yields will be obtained from them, and the bees will be little inclined to work honey dew so long as the honey harvest is good from thistles or other flowers, but be exceedingly careful not to allow any honey dew to get mixed with the crop that you expect to sell, as it will very much injure the honey trade. A gentleman watching our experiment asked why there were no blossoms on the tree. We could not tell him, but simply knew that our second growth trees have had no bloom on this year, or very little. We were wondering whether every basswood tree secreted a certain amount of sweet every year whether the bloom was there or not. This gentleman remarked that he thought, as there was no bloom, that these insects were sent to suck the honey out through the limbs of the trees, and discharge it where the bees could get it; but if that was the kind of honey we had to have for