

short of empty hives and began harvesting the swarms in any kind of box, in nail-kegs, in flour-barrels. When our junior reached his apiary with a wagonload of empty hives, there were some 12 hives full of bees, that were not hives at all. So we began transferring the bees out of these boxes into the movable frame hives, by shaking them out in front. The bees had been hived from one to three days previously, and had but very little comb built in their odd-shaped homes. Strange to say they were so ill satisfied with the unceremonious transfer that every swarm left the new hives provided for them, and went back home to their parent hive. None of these hives swarmed subsequently; and as the latter part of the season was unfavorable they were the hives that made the best crop.

We hope the above is a sufficient explanation, and that Mr. Willard and others will find in it enough to pay them for the trouble of perusing it.

DADANT & SON.

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### Who Should Keep Bees.

MRS. JENNIE ATCHLEY.

**W**HE question is often asked, "Will it pay me to keep bees? I answer yes, and I will tell why. I have argued against farmers, as a class, fussing to produce honey, when they can buy nice honey so cheaply. The idea was, that they could raise \$20 worth extra of corn, oats or cotton, at a profit and with that money buy the honey from a neighbor who made bee-keeping a business, while, if they had raised the \$20 worth of honey, it might have been at a loss. I have always argued that this was sound business policy; and, for that matter, I still think so, but I am satisfied that it will not work.

Many farmers seem to have the feeling that they must not pay out money for anything they can possibly get along without. The writer was born on a farm, and it is easy to see where the trouble lies—I tell you it makes all the difference in the world, what one's bringing up has been. It makes no difference how much nice honey is in the market, there is a use for every dollar besides being spent for honey.

I will quote something from Mr. Terry's "Strawberry Book," to which I am indebted for the spirit of this article:

"I remember once going home with a well-to-do farmer who had many acres of land to manage, and considerable money invested in outside business. He showed me among other

things, a large bed of strawberries. Now I knew that this friend was close to a market where he could buy fine home-grown berries at fair prices, and I was rather surprised that a man with so much business on his hands should be bothering to grow his own strawberries. So I said to him, you grow those, of course, for the pleasure of it, and not because it pays you to fuss with such little matters, when you have so large a farm and so much other business to attend to? No: I raise them, he replied, because I should not have them if I did not. I tried your plan, (of raising something else to buy berries with) and we did not have, I presume, more than a peck of berries during the season, although they were plentiful in the market. I could not buy more than a quart or two at a time, and that went against the grain, my bringing up on the farm had been another kind. I could not buy them freely. It was raise them or go without.

"Again a well known agriculturist sat with me at a hotel table. He had been a farmer all his life, and is well off. For a wonder, there was some real good cheese on the table. Our friend helped himself several times. He seemed to like it very much. I said, "You do not get good cheese down your way, I guess, judging from the way you take hold of that." His reply was; "They have it at the groceries, but, to tell the truth, as we do not make cheese we do not have it on our table one week out of the fifty-two." Now this farmer lives in a house that cost at least \$5,000, and has no lack of funds; but although evidently fond of cheese, he goes without it because they do not produce it. His bringing-up clings to him, and he cannot use freely what must be bought for money—don't you see?

If this is the case among well to do farmers, who could draw their checks for thousands of dollars at any time, and have them honored—how would it be likely to be where there are two or three ways for every dollar to go?

I visited such a farmer, last winter. He is not really poor, but is not yet out of debt, and said he had hard work to pay the interest and make both ends meet.

His wife told me that she had tried every Spring to get her husband to set out strawberry plants. He said: "Oh! we can buy strawberries cheaper than we can raise them;" "And now," she says, "how many do you think he bought last year? not one single quart!" Now this looks a little against that friend, but I know how it was. He thought in the Spring it was cheaper to buy than to try to grow them. but when it came time to buy, he hadn't the money to spare.