

probably some who can not, are present with us to-night.

It gives me pleasure to meet you all at this annual gathering, but especially those who have been so long and favorably known by their excellent contributions to our bee literature; and an added pleasure comes to me in the opportunity it gives of meeting face to face so many of my Canadian relatives (cousins I believe), who have so freely given me the credit of having an acrimonious feeling towards everything Canadian or English. It is not the first time I have got credit for more than I have deserved, and it is somewhat comforting to know that in this I have plenty of good company.

I can assure you that the anticipated pleasure in meeting with Canadian bee keepers has had more to do with my being here than any other one influence, although I am grateful for the privilege of being, if only for a few days, in a country where "honey drops from the trees." How eagerly we scan the pages of the bee journals for something from the pen of our favorite writers, but how much more pleasure in meeting such face to face in a gathering like this. As so fitly expressed in the last Review, "The one is a love letter, the other the lover himself."

"Things that address the ear are lost and die in one short hour. But that which strikes the eye lives long upon the mind; The faithful sight engraves the knowledge with a beam of light."

I doubt not most, if not all of you, have come here with the hope and expectation that this would be one of the most enjoyable and profitable meetings ever held by this Association, and such as bee keepers delight in attending. That such may be the case is doubtless the wish of all present. To make this wish a veritable reality can best be accomplished by each one taking part in the discussion and so contribute their portion of information for the general good.

Soil, air, sun and moisture are requisites to vigorous vegetable growth, but not the only requisites, for the home plant has these; and in order to reach its most perfect development it must be removed from its root-bound condition to its native soil and the open air where root and branch may appropriate the nourishment that is all about it. In the domain of thought the same is true, and any one wishing to reach the highest attitude of attainment must have fellowship and communion with other minds; "establish a commerce for his thoughts." He must give as well as receive.

Good sense will stagnate. Thoughts shut up want air.

And spoil, like bales, unopened to the sun, Thoughts, too, delivered is the more possessed;

Teaching we learn, and giving we retain.
'Tis thoughts exchange, which, like the alternate Push of waves conflicting, breaks the learned scum,
And defecates the students standing pool.

Without this, and kindred organizations each bee-keeper would have to depend largely upon his own resources and experiments, struggling on without adequate knowledge, by slow and tedious process gathering important facts to be used for a brief period, and then, with the possessor, be buried forever out of sight.

Men thus acting for themselves follow in a beaten path, or become selfish and reticent of their knowledge, "wise in their own conceits" and jealous of other dearly acquired wisdom. If such a one gets into a gathering of this kind, he seems to feel that there is nothing for him to learn and we rejoice when the scales fall from his eyes.

We have met here for the very same purpose for which other bee keeper's conventions are held, which was so appropriately and beautifully told by the editor of the American Bee Journal in his address at the recent meeting of the North Western Bee Keepers' Society at Chicago.

"We have come here," he said "to talk over the past and learn wisdom from our experiences, and those of our co-workers.

Sight and knowledge, and power have been man's inheritance as the days have come and gone. The poet wisely remarks that,

The waves that moan along the shore,
The winds that sigh in blowing,
Are sent to teach a mystic lore
Which men are wise in knowing.

To this end have we come together, so that the wisdom of each one may be communicated to all, with the magnetic currents of personal contact and hearty fellowship.

Mistakes are made and reverses come, but these do not discourage—they only strengthen the determination to succeed. . . . Of course we shall differ in our opinions, as do the greatest and best of men, but this should not give rise to any feeling of ill-will.

With this introduction allow me to call your attention to some things in our specialty that have been, and are attracting our attention and eliciting discussion in the bee journals.

Within a few months a new disease has made its appearance among some of the bees of Michigan, commonly recognized by its name, "digested neotar," and if our Canadian bee-keepers are not very careful it will cross the line and get mixed with their "pure crystal linden" honey. I sincerely hope the "wolverines" will, if possible, confine it to "its native heath." It might be unwise for this convention to pass resolutions