

-commit open robbery. Our experience, was, in a measure, like that of the victimized. We were reported—truly—digging the luscious stores from barrels. When these reports came, numbers began to say to themselves, "Well now, what a happy man! He complains of tired hands and arms in digging. Blessed tiredness! Only give me the chance! He eats his fill! It makes my teeth water; my liqs to smack. Tons of honey! and 10, 15, 20cts. the pound! He's making a fortune!" Forthwith we are beset with questions, oral and written. We speak and write enough to make a fortune, were we lawyers. Our remuneration is "Thank you"; perhaps not that; or the purchase of a hive at the lowest figure once,—for many hours of instruction which went in one ear and out the other,—a fat goose. In attempting to answer the question, we may deal with it in the first place negatively. Stupid people need not begin; ignorance is a disadvantage in any business, but fatal in some kinds. Stupidity in the lawyer, doctor, or minister, is an unpardonable sin, and should be regarded as opening wide the door of exit from the profession, where the holders of the keys have been so unkind and unfaithful as to open the door of entrance. A neighbour of ours, not usually stupid in other matters, got a large swarm of bees put into a hive which he shut up closely, leaving space for the exit of only one or two at a time, hoping that the smallness of the fly-hole would help to keep them in. One might have reflected that the bees needed breath as much as the victims in the "Black Hole" in Calcutta, and that the entrance, under the circumstances, was as inadequate for the bees as the small aperture was for the perishing prisoners. And there are hundreds of errors to be avoided in bee-keeping by intelligent forethought and consideration. We don't mean that bee-keeping is properly open to intellectual giants; but, in order to succeed, it requires such intelligence as is essential to success in most occupations. Ordinary gumption must be used; otherwise, after bees have given honey the first year, or, by accident, even the second year, there will

come a series of disasters ending in disgust and abandonment. Such has been the result in the majority of cases within our knowledge. People who knew nothing of bees before, irrationally expect success without informing themselves of what they should do. They deserve the chagrin which comes upon them. We have minds given to be used; so, why keep them idle when there is plenty of work for them to do.

Lazy people should not begin. A great part of the year, bees require no attention, but another part they do; and indolence must not hinder. In the honey and swarming season, in any fair sized apiary, there must be activity and constant, multitudinous, if not heavy, work. Self-indulgence calls for respite, but, if given, honey is unextracted and therefore ungathered, swarming becomes excessive and uncontrollable, bee, are lost as well as honey, and our beautiful Italians or Carniolaes become mixed with meaner blood. Then self-reproach and disappointment find quarter in our breasts, and emptiness in our pockets and barrels.

So also the procrastinating are disqualified. The dallying and self-indulgent are unfit for any business, and especially where promptitude is so necessary in affording the bees all needful accomodation and service.

The fickle are likewise unfit for the business. When one is turned aside from his purpose by small discouragements, he should not begin; for it is not a little trying to meet such disasters as come in greater or less measure upon all beginners. Imagine the disgust one must feel when his combs break down under the hot sun. How mortifying to have been so thoughtless as to leave it, full of brood and honey, so that the heat and weight both sent it into a dripping, sticking mass of bees and brood and stores, and possibly the queen too. How meanly a person must feel when, passing a hive in the morning, he sees its honey streaming down, and remembers that, the previous evening being cold, he had shut up the bottom-board not observing that the fly-hole was closed. The result is that a splendid stock gets half smothered and the other half smeared hopelessly, near-