

As for the occurrence mentioned by Dr. Thom that a nuclei alongside of some Carniolan stocks in the apiary of Mr. A. I. Root, have beaten the Carniolans in the gathering of honey, I will not dispute that occurrence, but do claim that this one occurrence can by no means be taken as a convincing, positive evidence that the Italian bees are a far better and more desirable honey bee, than the Carniolans, before more trials. When we consider that many causes may have been the cause of the Carniolans short falling, as for instance, that the queens in the Carniolan stocks, if imported queens, may have been old or injured in transit so that their fertility gave out and they were balled and superseded without being noticed by the bee-keeper in charge, or that those queens may have been but partially injured, which injury had an injurious effect on their progeny, or the queens may have happened to be inferior queens, as will often happen as well as that natural queens may prove inferior to artificially reared ones, besides no race of bees can be judged definitely by but one or two queens, as I had occasion to learn by the importation of two Albino queens from Messrs. Wm. Cary & Son, where the workers of one queen were of a most vicious stinging and great swarming disposition, whilst those of the other queen were the very reverse, leaving me in utter doubt about the merits of the Albino in regard to these points. That the Carniolans are a pure distinct race of bees although in some of their habits they approximate the Blacks (as for instance the glueing up of the entrance of the hive to small holes) is proved by the uniformity of markings, not only in the drones, but also in the workers. I have never yet among the many Italian queens I have had found one queen whose drones were uniformly marked and I have come, years ago, to the conclusion that the Italian bees are not a pure race of bees, but perhaps a hybrid between the Cyprian and Blacks, which mixture is well possible if we consider that the Roman empire once extended into Asia and that the old Romans and Greeks were very fond of honey, the only sweet at that time known, and that some Roman bee man may have taken some colony of the superior yellow belted Cyprian bee to Italy. I wrote my doubts about the purity of the Italian bee to Mr. W. P. Henderson, the breeder of Italian and Mount Lebanon queens at Marfresboro, Tenn., who contradicted me, whereupon I offered him double price for a tested pure Italian queen, whose drones he would guarantee to be uniformly marked. I also at the same time made the same offer to Mr. J. S. Huberson, at San Duya, Cal. Mr. Huberson sent a queen, which he wrote he hoped

would do, that he had picked her out of the queens of six hundred colonies he had overhauled for that purpose, but this queen, when her drones hatched in my apiary did not fill the bill. Mr. Henderson did not send me the desired queen, but wrote that since his last letter many of the leading bee men of the East States, the Rev. Mr. Langstroth among them, had expressed it as their opinion that the Italians were not a pure race of bees.

Although, unfortunately, I do not happen to share Dr. Thom's predilection for the Italian bee, I am happy to say that I most cordially endorse his hope of a glorious happy time for mankind to come, when all the stubble, &c., of human ignorance and vanity will have, in the course of time, been consumed by the fire of acquired knowledge and wisdom, and when apiculture, most probably, will have reached a satisfactory standard of bee excellence for brethren bee men no longer to differ about.

GUST. MURKARD.

Portland, Pa., Sept. 27th, 1886.

For the Canadian Bee Journal.

#### BLOSSOMING EXTRAORDINARY.

SEND you by this mail, some apple blossoms which I plucked, to-day, in an orchard of 150 trees, 25 of which are in bloom; some of them about as full of blossom as trees usually are in spring. Here and there, scattered through our village, are trees white with bloom. I walked nearly two miles this evening after tea to see the orchard mentioned above and I doubt not that there are many more in which the same phenomenon may be seen. Bees working on fruit bloom on the 14th Sept. We have before seen trees bloom in the fall, that is, here and there a tree with a few blossoms but certainly, nothing like this. We have had a dry spell of weather followed by warm showers which may have caused a flow of sap, causing the blossoms to appear; now, which should bloom next spring? If this is not the cause, who will give us an explanation? Will these trees bloom again next spring? I doubt it.

J. F. DUNN.

Ridgeway, Ont.

No doubt Mr. Dunn has given the correct explanation of this very unusual phenomenon. A single tree exhibiting such peculiar eccentricity might require very different explanations to be satisfactory; for instance: on the 20th of July last, a cherry tree in our garden presented the unusual phenomenon of ripe fruit, half-grown fruit and blossoms on the same tree. Mr. C. Macpherson,