

cality, in which your correspondent resides, will be best judged of, from a view of the surrounding vegetation. White clover, buckwheat, Linden, raspberry, the orchards, &c., are the chief sources from which honey is obtained in this country. But white clover takes precedence of all other plants, for its superiority in quantity and quality, often denominated *Fine Canada*.

The growth, maturity, and harvesting of all crops in Canada, is confined to a limited period, and the harvest of honey is not an exception. Consequently, the strength of the stocks should be promoted in advance, by every means within the power of the apiarian, so as to meet the required demand of labour, for a successful improvement of the short time allotted for an efficient gathering of not only an abundance but often a superabundance of the honey, that may be secreted by plants in blossom. For its duration upon the blossoms may prove uncertain. The pasture of bees, is not like pasture of other stock, what is left by cattle to-day can be eaten the next, or the next week, but a storm of rain or a few days of wet weather, will wash the greatest abundance from the blossoms, or a cold spell of weather or drought may check the plentiful secretion for that season. It is obvious from this reasoning, if correct, that *strong stocks*, at the commencement of the season, in this climate, are *the foundation of certain success*, other circumstances being equal, as it is only those stocks, in ordinary seasons, that will realize a surplus of honey. over the quantity required to keep them over winter; and in a season of scarcity, weak stocks must perish, if not previously fed, taken up, or united with other stock. Therefore, assuming my stocks to be strong, at the commencement of the honey and swarming season, I endeavour to keep them so, by limiting the swarms, and returning them to the old stocks, or in movable comb-hives are in use, remove the remainder of queen's cells, in excess of the number of swarms permitted to leave. This hive is an improvement upon the chamber-box, beehives, and a legion of worthless patents, as it gives the apiarian control and power of inspecting the interior, and the past seasons's trial by myself will justify their future use. This mode of increase of stocks is much at variance with the practice of a large number of bee keepers throughout the country. The advantages over the old system are unquestionable, whatever merits other methods may possess, as the loss and waste of a valuable swarm, brood, and bee-bread, with the labour and time in accumulating this wasted product committed to the brimstone pit are *saved*, and are properly directed in the most profitable way, when the increase must be saved or lost. And it will prove ultimately a better guarantee of profitable increase than where more swarms, that is to say, all the first and consequently the best swarms, are allowed to leave without reducing the old stock to become a prey to the moth.

The best time to stock an apiary, is the last of winter or early spring. The operation at this time is attended with the least loss of bees, and any reasonable enhancement of price over the fall stock, will be fully compensated for in the avoidance of care and risk of wintering; although bees can be removed at any seasons of the year, and successfully without swarming, and artificial swarms are the better for being removed some distance. The price of a stock will average four dollars, in this section of the country, in common boxhives. Some practical experience in purchasing, is necessary at any season of the year. The common method of judging by the weight of the skip, is not always a safe guide, as old stocks are much heavier in proportion to their contents, and may queenless hives will prove quite heavy.

Some care and attention are requisite in wintering bees, more from the length than the severity of the winter, in order to counteract the accumulation of moisture, generated in the wooden hives, by the breath and heat of the bees becoming frozen, without direct or upright ventilation, but this is in some measure a necessary evil. This is the reason that the common boxhive, placed upon blocks or pins, is successful, exposed as it is, in many instances to every vicissitude of the weather. The cold dry air, and driving winds, dry up the moisture in some measure, but at the expense of the vitality and animal heat of the bees, and extra consumption of food. The evils of this unmerciful exposure of bees, to the severity of a Canadian winter, are increased by the sudden changes of temperature, as a sudden change from a thaw to severe freezing, before the inside becomes dry will often prove fatal. But, as protection by properly regulated ventilation becomes better understood, this old system will gradually disappear.

Straw hives are better adapted to wintering bees, than wood, as this material is a non-conductor, consequently warmer in winter and cooler in summer, and will absorb and evaporate moisture, and when combined with external protection, either of the same material or wood will obviate the necessity of direct upright ventilation. But where movable comb frames and surplus honey boxes are the system, the straw cannot be worked into the proper shape, without being combined with wood. And those complicated arrangements for ventilation can never be adjusted to the sudden changes of the weather by ordinary beekeepers.

There are some objections to straw, as affording a harbour for the moth, but the depredations of this enemy of the bee are better prevented by other means than the adoption of any material of which the hive is constructed, as they will enter any hive that was ever invented, if not prevented by the bees themselves. And honey boxes are the best in every respect for the deposit of surplus honey, both for its security