

virgin queen is given to a parent colony immediately after it has cast a swarm, said queen from the cell or otherwise, will go to tearing down the queen-cells left in the hive when the swarm issued therefrom.

Is this right?"

"Yes. That is as I intended."

"I think this a mistake; for, in nineteen cases out of twenty, if the swarm is hived on a new stand the cells will not be torn down, and not once in three times where the old colony is removed to a new stand, the swarm being hived where the old colony stood—at least this has been my experience in a practice of nearly a third of a century."

"I thought it would work, and neighbor Jones told me, when I put this question to him, that he was sure it would. Why will it not?"

"Because the bees do not want those cells torn down, for in them is cradled the choicest thing they have—something that they value more than they did their own dear mother, and that which sent her out from her own home to seek a new one in some strange land; and if they consider those cells better than their own mother, are they now going to sacrifice them for any stranger; one on which they had bestowed no care or wish?"

"I had not thought about the matter in that light."

"No, they will not do it only as they are forced to do so being thrown out of a normal condition by having all of the field-bees drawn off by removal of the hive from its old stand, or by the apiarist cutting off all of these queen-cells. And ever in this latter case they will often kill the virgin queen given, or destroy the cell, preferring to rear a queen from their own sisters in the egg or larval form, which still remain in the hive, rather than to accept a stranger."

"Then why should neighbor Jones tell me that the virgin queen would tear down all the queen-cells in the hive?"

"Probably because he had noticed sometime that the queen-cells were torn down where a parent colony had given up sending out an after-swarm as they very often do where the scarcity of honey follows the casting of the prime swarm. Then if an experience over a score of years of careful watching is of any value, I can only think that your neighbor Jones is mistaken in thinking that it is the queen that does the tearing down of the cells, for it is only when the queen has access to the queen-cells without other bees, or in very small nuclei, that she does the work of tearing open the cells, the workers being the main agents along this tearing line. All know who are at all familiar with the inside workings of a colony of bees, that, when the bees wish to protect the queen against the most enraged queen; and when they change their mind they are as ready to secure the destruction of the inmates of the cell as is the enraged queen; so all hands turn to the inmates of the cells are dragged forth and cast out of the hive, even a single mourner. Whenever an introduced queen is accepted by the bees, of course the cells are all torn down, and all after-swarms given up; but the rule is that it does not work that way, but the queen is destroyed; and unless we conclude not to swarm when the queen-cells left when a parent swarm issued emerges from her cell after swarming is the result, just the same as it would have been had we not given the queen or cell, and find we have had our labor for nothing."

"If this won't work, how are