

in this great apicultural congress.

As to the future, I would urge that the association work along the old lines, with the added feature I have been recommending. There are some who consider the organization unworthy of preservation. A few think it an evil because it discloses the secrets of the craft, while here and there one falsely accuses it of being managed by a ring. I have no sympathy with any of these views. If the association has been promotive of the interests of bee-culture in the past, and I have shown, I think, conclusively that it has, there is no good reason why it may not be equally, and even more useful in the days to come, if managed with that broader wisdom which we may expect to come with the progressive intellectuality of the age. The fear of disclosing secrets, I regard as a mere nervous weakness. You may blurt out all you know, and still bee-keeping is an art, which cannot be learned by the million. It requires a peculiar combination of characteristics which few men and still fewer women, possess. The mere knowledge of all that is known by Heddon, Jones, Doolittle, Hutchinson, or "Cyula Lins-wik" is not sufficient to produce second editions of these accomplished bee-keepers; there is a "knack" which is the result of a peculiar compound of mental qualities only found in here and there one. The difference between knowledge possessed and knowledge applied, is that between a cyclopedia and a Morse or an Edison. Cyclopedias are plentiful, but Morses and Edisons are scarce.

As to the association being managed by a ring, there never was a more gratuitous libel against an organized body than this. It has no "spoils" to attract "victors." "Where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." In this case there is no carcass, and consequently no birds of prey ready to devour. On occasions when there has been temptation and opportunity for a clique to usurp authority, there has been a rising above all selfish interests. Notably was this the case two years ago at Rochester, when by the non-attendance of Western bee-keepers the Eastern men had it all their own way. I am witness with what noble self-abnegation they arose to the duty of the hour, and made such managements as issued in the best bee-convention ever held on this continent, and perhaps in the world. I refer to the Detroit meeting last December, the memory of which will long be green, fresh and fragrant in the minds of all who were present at that remarkable gathering. No, there is no ring, never has been, to my knowledge, and few know the association better than I do. The first and only

attempt at cliquing was effectually squelched, as I have narrated in my brief history. In the same impartial way I hope and believe the society will go on, increasing in usefulness as the years pass along, until we meet in a purer, happier and everlasting fellowship:

"Where thrilling music through the welkin rings,
And nectar sweet is gathered without stings."

I cannot close without giving expression to the pleasure I feel in being once more assembled with you at Indianapolis. It is like going back to one's birth-place, for here our association was born. What I said from the President's chair in 1872, I here beg to repeat with all the added emphasis which the lapse of 14 years can give:

"It is very fitting that we should meet on the present occasion in this city, where the initiatory organization was formed, and the plan of consolidation conceived and proposed; where, too, we received at the outset such tokens of appreciation from the citizens, the press, and the civic authorities, especially in the free use of the fine Senate Chamber, in whose honorable seats even our lady bee-keepers could feel for the time that they were not only *suffragists* but *legislators*, and now in this supreme Court room, where we can feel that we have attained judicial elevation. From its peculiar and central position the cordial spirit of its officers, editors, and people, and the number of such bodies that have seemed to come here as by some law of gravitation, Indianapolis deserves to be styled Convention City, and if it has not formally received that name, I propose that the bee-keepers here assembled do so christen it, forthwith."

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Ont.

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BEETON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 8, 1886.

The Norfolk Bee-keepers Association met on the 4th inst. We shall have a report of the meeting for another week.

Any deficiencies in this issue of the JOURNAL you will please excuse, the writer having been absent at the Mich. State Bee-keepers' Convention at Ypsilanti, when this number should have been receiving his attention.

Owing to unavoidable circumstances the date of the New York State, Eastern New York also the New Jersey and Eastern Bee-Keepers' Asso-