

fectly contented. Then by shaking the limbs most of the others took wing, and settled down with them. We are satisfied that this swarm would have absconded had it not been for the force pump; and on a hot or even cold day, when the swarm is once clustered on the limb, we find it a great advantage to spray a little cold water in the air, dampening the bees a little, and also the ground around the hive. When they are shaken down into the swarm catcher and placed in front of the hive, they run in without any ceremony. We have sometimes had the bees leave the hive when the sun was pouring down on it, and cluster again; but by pouring a little water on the hive, and putting the bees back, they would stay perfectly contented.

Winter Packing—Cases for Sunshades.

SOME of our friends are asking if the outside or winter packing case for hives will answer for sunshades, and not interfere with the ordinary manipulation. Yes, they will answer well, and can be put together in half a minute, and the hives set into them, the rays of the sun are kept off, while the bees are allowed to pass in and out the entrance with as much freedom as if no outside case were there. Some are wanting them for two and three story hives, but we would not advise such an outside case. Merely covering the brood chamber is all that is necessary, and the second or third stories or supers for honey may be set on top, and manipulated with as much comfort as if there was no outside case there. This prevents the bees from clustering out in hot weather; they go to the fields and gather instead. This will make a considerable difference in the yield of honey, perhaps enough to pay the cost of the case. On extremely hot days during the honey flow, if the bees have no such protection, they will cluster out, and lose perhaps half a day's work. Now if a colony will carry in ten pounds of honey in one day, and they only work half the time, it is easily seen that five pounds is lost. It is evident, then, that some protection is necessary, and the cases answer a double purpose—of protection from cold with packing, and protection from heat without packing, leaving an air space around the hive.

We are pleased to see by the A. B. J., that our esteemed friend Prof. Cooke, of the Agricultural College, Michigan, has succeeded in inducing the American Government, to allow the free importation of queen bees, for breeding purposes. It is evident from their answer to the Prof. that they did not know they were legislating against the interests of the bee-keepers, and we wonder if all our American friends appreciate Prof. Cook, as he deserves. The Prof's arguments in favor of his case, are so clear and so strong, that no honest government could refuse his demands. He knows he is right before he starts, and then he knows equally well that justice must be done and that no government can afford to lose the friendship or legislate against such an influential body as the bee-keepers of America.

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"Misery likes "Company" is an old saying. We feel ashamed to have to tell our readers, that we have allowed mice to injure our home apiary after giving so many instructions for destroying mice, but after reading friend Miller's article, telling how he allowed his bees to starve, we thought we might say—That's no worse any way, than Miller did: Now friend Miller, just let us give you a little piece of advice, providing you turn round and do the same thing to us. When you find your bees want a little food to keep them from starving, just before you set them out, buy a little cheese cloth, or the cheapest, thinnest cotton you can get. Put a little granulated honey, say one lb. in it, tie the corners together and place it over the cluster. This will prevent the bees, from getting smeared with the honey and also prevent the honey from running down amongst them, and allow them to suck through the bag. They will gnaw through the bag and get at the honey itself. Now how easy it would have been, to go round and put one of these bags on top of frames just over the cluster, without disturbing them. These little packages can be tied up in a few minutes, and distributed among the bees. We think we see friend Miller going out to cut a stick for Jones, but never mind he'll accept a little touching up, on the mouse question this time.