

salts; a Dytiscus of sulphuretted hydrogen; a Trichius of musk: an Osmoderma of Russian leather; an Aromia of musk; a Cantharis of mustard; a Lina tremula of raphtha; certain long-horns of tea-roses.

Moths.—Musk, vanilla, jessamine, amber, vinegar, turpentine, ratafia.

Plant Bugs.—Fruit essence, thyme, peach, dead nettle, black currants, sliced cucumber, hyacinth.

Gauze Wings (amongst which are bees).—Musk, cachous, ether, formic acid, garlic, etc.

So that we see the delightful aromas we have hitherto thought peculiar to plants and their flowers also emanate in many instances from members of the animal kingdom.

The whole subject of odors so far as insects and plants are concerned, is woven the one into the other in the most beautiful web of intricate interdependence; yet, when we remember that these odors, essences of plants, when analyzed seem to us (mere compounds of carbon and water) as simple as the mariner's compass, we find they are just as mysteriously wonderful. It appears as easy for the mind to grasp the idea of their simplicity as it is to think of the glistening diamond or a plain bit of coal as a piece of carbon. The whiteness of the clear crystal, the opaque blackness of coal, however, are in truth so complex that the chemist is able to extract from the one the most lovely colors, from the other the most enchanting perfumes and delightfully tasting essences.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

Not Advisable to Import Syrians.

DEAR SIR,—Please excuse my troubling you a moment concerning bee matters. I am aware you imported queens from Syria—different points—and I observed in one of your communications years ago you mentioned that you discovered some difference between the bees you obtained in different parts of Syria. I have never seen these so-called Syrian bees, but I am contemplating trying a Syrian queen and want to get one of the most desirable strain. I am not particular about perfection in looks if well or truly bred. I do not know whether or not you still run your "Islands" and breed queens strictly true to breed or strain. I have been thinking of importing queens from Syria through some American resident there. I would send mailing cages provisioned for the bees passage. I boast of mailing the first queen and attendants ever shipped by mail transit, but I never engaged in breeding queens and never sold a queen, but have had hundreds from

different breeders including a number of Carniolans.

I was concerned with Mr. J. R. Mahon in soliciting our government to import Italian bees in 1859. We failed to interest the government officials and Mr. Mahon made a trip to Germany and purchased queens of Dzeryon & Berlspech, and returned to Philadelphia in September, 1859. It was a losing game for us. Messrs. Colvin & Wagner had queens imported on same ship with Mahon's bees. These queens were the first Italians that reproduced in America. Rev. Mr. Langstroth has not given correct accounts while attempting to record the history of the first importation of Italians. He gave it as he understood it, but he did not know all the facts, and is evidently mistaken, as shown on the face of his statements. Mr. Parsons was sent to Europe as a government agent—not to buy bees—but after we solicited the Patent committee for a commission to go to Italy an order was sent to Parsons to purchase bees and ship hither. Parson reported he purchased ten colonies on the government account and ten on his own account. He received some queens, the government none. But Uncle Sam paid, as the record shows, one-thousand eight-hundred dollars on account of the bees. I had a little racket with the commissioner over the matter. Parsons was more in luck in the matter of importation than yourself and the rest of us. Parsons official report of his mission to Italy appears in the patent office annual report for 1860 or 1861, in which he alludes to the bees. The government bees (dead) arrived in the spring of 1860.

I have wandered from my inquiry, however. Can you furnish me with a Syrian queen next coming season? I do not care for beauty, only pure breed. Perhaps I would go in for a virgin queen. If I should try to import from Syria I would try and get queens from cold regions from the mountains about Nazareth or other high cold climates. I suppose bees bred on Mount Lebanon are equal to any of the "Holy Land" bees, and if I remember correctly you imported from Mount Lebanon. If you cannot furnish these bees can and will you please refer me to a party in Syria who would give me information concerning the bees?

Very respectfully,
C. J. ROBINSON.

Richford, Tioga Co., New York.

We would not advise you to get any Holy Land bees or Syrians as they are now termed. We have tested them thoroughly and we are satisfied the results would be very unsatisfactory to