

self, but neither they nor any one else can welcome you to our State with a more hearty greeting than can I. We are glad to see you in our midst. There is a growing interest here in the industry that you represent to-day. Michigan easily ranks high in the production of honey. The breezes are tempered by our inland seas, and our soil is generous in foliage and flowers. We are strangers to extreme drouths and pestilential moisture. We are not in the path of the blizzard or the tornado. Nearly every foot of land in our Southern Peninsula takes kindly to the plowshare, and rejoices in a fertility that responds heartily to the demands of the husbandman. We are a busy people, in busy homes, and we harmonize easily with the "busy bee." We understand each other—we and the bees—and each pursue our vocations without antagonism. Hence there is room for both, without hostility and mutual profit; and all we need is the dissemination of such information as you can give, to lead us to a more general pursuit of your industry.

We shall expect an impulse in that direction as the result of your deliberations. You represent no mean vocation. Ever since and before Jacob sent as a present to propitiate the hard master in Egypt, a little balm, and a little honey, spices and myrrh; ever since Columella wrote, and Virgil and Horace sang, the sweet elixir has tempted the palate of mankind. There is no substitute for it: the analysis of the chemist is unable to produce it; man cannot make it, or grow it, or rectify it, and till Millennium's dawn it will be nectar to men and gods.

Yours is no insignificant industry. You represent 3,000,000 colonies, of bees with an annual product of surplus honey of 100,000,000 pounds. Under the impulse of this and kindred associations, the product is increasing annually. The cheap sugar of to-day has no perceptible influence upon the demand or the price of the commodity. As the country increases in wealth and luxury, the demand grows with its growth, and increases with the means to gratify the appetite. The best minds in the field of science have contributed to the more successful promotion of the industry. Aristotle, Virgil, Columella, Pliny, Swammerdam, Ray, Latreille, and a host of others, ancient and modern—not to forget Langstroth, Cook, Quinby, Root, and others of our day—have studied, observed, experimented and written about bees and their habits, till we know how best to rear them, and how best to utilize their harvest of sweetness; so that to use the words of a learned Judge of one of our Courts, who said, "In modern days the bee has become almost as completely domesticated as the ox or

the cow. Its habits and its instincts have been studied, so that it can be controlled with nearly as much certainty as any of the domestic animals."

You have almost taken it out of the class *fera nature*. The propensity to mischief has been so diminished, that serious injury is almost as rare from a bee as from the horse, and far less than from the dog. The Courts take kindly to the bee. They look with favor upon animals or insects that are useful to man; with disfavor upon such as are purely noxious or useless. There is no question of the utility of bees. I note this fact, as I observe a little apprehension among apiarists, about the attitude of Courts occasionally, and the fear that there may grow up some legal limitation or liability that shall destroy your industry. Bees were here before Courts or juries, and they have the right of way, and will keep it so long as their product is desirable. The recent case that has caused some apprehension, will be found, I hope, to be based upon an utter misconception of the bee and its habits. It will be found, I have no doubt, that a sound grape is absolutely armor-proof to the attack of the bee. It is only when the armor is broken that the attack is made. A grape with a broken shell is practically valueless—worthless, except for the wine-press; and for one, I frankly say, gentlemen, that as between the wine-press and the bee—as between alcohol and honey—I am for the bee and for the honey, and I believe the Courts will give the bee the case.

But, gentlemen, I am not here to keep you from your deliberations. I again welcome you to Michigan, and trust that your stay with us shall be so pleasant that your recollection of it shall be a life-long joy.

Pres. Root said that he strongly advocated the location of this meeting at Detroit, and he was fully satisfied that there was wisdom in the choice. He had always been much interested in Michigan bee-keepers, and was very glad to meet with so many of them here. The matter of defense of our rights as bee-keepers had been mentioned by Pres. Willetts, and he was much in favor of unitedly defending our rights. As Mr. T. G. Newman was General Manager of the Bee Keepers' Union, an organization created for this purpose, he would call upon Mr. Newman to make a statement concerning what had been done, and what was expected to be done in the future, by the organization of which he was manager. Mr. T. G. Newman then delivered the following address on the

NATIONAL BEE-KEEPERS' UNION.

During the past year it has become necessary to form a Bee-Keepers' Union. As this societ