

longer. They are bitten and driven from the hive by the workers, and it is now that their stingless and defenceless condition is manifested. But so it was intended, that they might be more easily exterminated (and here is shown a wise economy) to preserve the stores for the more useful members of the family, the pollen gatherers, fertilizers and beautifiers of nature.

Mr. Darwin has also failed to fully comprehend the wisdom of the barbed sting, inferring that it is not yet perfect in structure, as the insect loses its life in its own defence (Darwin, 163), but the bee was intended for the use of, and to be subservient to, man, and hence was not permitted to inflict pain a second time, after once cautioning the intruder. If the sting were allowed to be withdrawn, as with the hornet, etc., the bee surely would have indulged in a second and perhaps many more punishments.

I have referred to an occasional fourth inmate of the hive, which is termed a "fertile worker." This pest makes its appearance sometimes in a hive that is beyond the possibility of raising a queen. This worker is one supposed to have been raised in close proximity to a queen cell and to have received some of the "royal jelly" by mistake. Through the action of this food, her ovaries are more developed than in the other workers; she can, in fact, lay eggs, but will deposit them here and there in a very irregular manner in worker and drone cells, sometimes two or three in each cell, and these eggs always produce drones only, as it is impossible for her to become fertilized, so abortive are her organs of reproduction. She is, like Darwin's missing link, neither queen nor worker, but a little of both, and, like the said lost link, very difficult to find, as she is in no way different in appearance from the worker.

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