

enjoy the cold of January very quietly after a dip of 14° below zero. Here on the north shore of Lake Ontario the temperature does not register as low as in some other parts of the Province, but we have other difficulties. Not long since I was in one of our drug stores and asked the doctor about the condition of his bees, he said, "Oh, they are all dead, they died last spring; it is too near the lake for to keep bees."

The honey market here is very dull, heretofore all kinds of honey have been palmed off even by the professional bee-keepers, and purchasers think all honey alike, consequently nothing but the best should be offered where it has to compete with canned fruit of all kinds and maple sugar, which is sent from Quebec as soon as the sap begins to run. Wax is in good demand for home use for oaken floors and the finishing of passenger cars at the car-works, bringing from 30c. to 40c. per pound. The month of February was favorable to bee-keepers, having but one dip of 20° below zero on the 5th, followed by open weather at a time when breeding may commence. A slight shock of an earthquake was felt in this vicinity on the 12th at 6.51 o'clock, accompanied by warm humid weather which brings down all accumulated frost from the walls of the hives and prepares them for another fall of temperature which occurred on several occasions during the month. I have one stock of bees in a cold damp cellar as an experiment; the place is well adapted to keep fruit and vegetables in, with a steady temperature of about 40° , the bees seem very quiet. All my hives have wire screens in the bottom for ventilation, the bottom boards are let down an inch or more, so the dampness or moisture that collects falls as also does clippings of wax. After forty days of confinement the first excrement was found on the board, it being of a jelly-like appearance with pollen mixed. Early in January eggs were found but no dry excrement could be seen with a glass. There is a small insect found on the board which under a glass is transparent at first, it is less than an egg in size and active, I put them to a freezing process, but they returned to their former condition. I can find nothing in Cook's manual in regard to them.

March 1st—And away down below zero: my bees are well up on their summer stands, showing no signs of uneasiness in cold weather; invariably those exposed have done the best. Bees are like birds, pigeons like to rise to light, wood ducks build their nests high in trees. Hives of bees setting low attract more heat and accumulate more damp, and are consequently not so well adapted to their instinct. The warm changes during the winter have been very favorable to the bee-

keepers of this Province, giving the bees liberty they being, like pigs, cleanly in their habits. The race of races of bees I will leave with those that are "in the race." The moving of bees long distances in the winter can be done successfully notwithstanding the jar of the hive. My bees cannot hear, but if you poke your finger at them they can see every time. Seasonable weather, and the sun at high noon will bring our young bees out on a frolic. Our plans for the work of the season settled and our material at hand we will consider first reversible frames, which is not a new thing in the patent office in Canada. Mine stands on a strip let into the sides of the hive near the bottom to take the weight, the sides of the frames join together forming a bottom wall with ample bee-space, which is the best non-conductor of heat and cold. Bees prefer an opening at the bottom of each card of comb for exit, mine standing crosswise of the hive brood raising commences in the centre of the combs with some stores above. My hives hold eight frames, I propose to use six for brood, the seventh with a frame holding nine tin sections with flanges holding a pound each when well filled, nine of them fills my frame of twelve inches square with perforated separators, the round perforated metal being more porous allows the young to escape and takes the pollen off the worker's legs. A frame with glass gives full view of the section when partially filled to be moved and an empty one set in its place with another separator and glass frame outside. Reversing is only advisable at the height of the honey flow. Starters take better than natural comb and leave no fish-bones with my bees which have no fancy stripes, they finish their work full and complete and are always ready to meet us. Frames are removed without disturbing the honey boards above which takes the crates with sections with ample bee-space, perforated separators are used with frames attached to enable the bees to fill the sections to the utmost. Swarms seldom leave the homestead but often unite in matrimony and refuse any law of divorce. To stop the fray I use a swarm catcher, if another swarm attempts to join hands. The king-bird for his sweet morning meal takes the worker bee as his "bill of fare," at noon he takes the would-be-father of the family high in the air. Martins take young queens on their bridal trips.

B. Loser.

Cobourg, March 15th, 1886.

If you will collect in a bottle or cage some of the insects you mention and forward them to us we will have them examined and, if possible, their species determined. We think they belong to a class frequently found among the debris on the bottom boards of