

crowded out. We were very sorry indeed that the country was clad with snow and the ground frozen when we were there, but neither frost or snow deterred our friend Raitt from going to the hills and chopping up large pieces of frozen earth with young heather; thawing them out for us and packing a large number of the young plants nicely in a basket, which we were delighted to receive, expecting to be able to raise heather in Canada. We were specially careful to hang our basket of young heather plants in the saloon under the sky-light where we had placed some other rare plants that we had secured, but, as many of you are aware, we had a very rough passage. Windows, sky lights and doors were smashed by the waves, and the salt water came pouring through the broken sky lights into the cabin, drenching our heather and other plants. The result is that we have just one heather plant left from the several hundred which we brought with us and which Mrs. J. has already potted indoors in order that we may prevent it being injured by winter. Mr. Raitt also gave us a very fine sample of the best heather honey which is so highly prized by every Scotchman, and it must also be appreciated by our English friends as there cannot be enough bought to supply the English market at fully double the price of first class honey. If we could raise heather honey in this country there would not be objections made by other people if we cut it up for sale as we did this year at the Toronto Exhibition. We are credibly informed that heather honey, when cut up for retailing, does not leak like our Canadian honey. The sample sent us by Mr. Raitt might be cut the same as cheese and it would not leak a drop. It seems more like jelly in its consistency. No doubt it will always find a market at high prices and if it could not be grown in the most northern localities in Canada there are plenty of places in America suitable for growing it. The market will never be over stocked apparently with it, and those who live in favored localities where they can grow the heather are sure of having good returns for their investment. Those who are accustomed to our very mild, pleasant flavored honey in this country would not probably like the heather until they

became accustomed to its use, as it has a much more decided and stronger flavor and is about as dark in color as our buckwheat. We do not think that it would take one long to get accustomed to its use, if you could only have it blooming and see the plant in its beauty. We have just received a letter from Mr. Raitt with a sprig of heather pressed while in bloom, and the work has been so well done that the beautiful green which we hear so much about in the old country is yet retained in the pressing. The sprig of flowers is so handsome that we have decided to put it in a frame under glass in order to preserve a beautiful appearance, that our visiting friends may see it in its beauty. It will be seen by his article that Mr. Raitt has the art of securing large yields of honey. If we could make heather grow and bloom so profusely in this country as it does in Scotland, especially in our waste lands in northern Canada, it would be a great boon to bee-keepers. If the seeds were taken from the heather growing high up on the mountains in Scotland where the frost and snow remains so long in spring, no doubt it would be much harder than that grown in warmer or more favored places. We see no reason why plants from such localities might not be grown safely in this country. We are propagating in hot-house and indoors many plants that cannot compare in beauty with the Scotch heather. Let our friends secure seed and try and acclimatize that great honey plant in this country. It is worth trying, if for its beauty alone.

OUR OWN APIARY.

LAST EXAMINATION OF COLONIES.

APPPEARANCES seem to indicate that a great many of our bee friends are not going to be caught napping although they have been very much surprised at the scarcity of food in their hives. Allow us to say, friends, that our bees are all fed up with from five to ten pounds more food than we expected they would require and the favorable weather has given us the opportunity which they have taken advantage of and sealed their stores up beautifully. We do not recollect that we have ever had our bees