

or in any way where their colonies will much exceed fifteen or sixteen quarts of bees.

Bees are creatures of habit, and the exercise of caution in managing them is required. A stock of bees should be placed where they are to stand through the season before they form habits of location, which will take place soon after they commence their labors in the spring. They learn their home by the objects surrounding them in the immediate vicinity of the hive. Moving them, (unless they are carried beyond their knowledge,) is often fatal to them. The old bees forget their new location, and on their return, when collecting stores, they haze about where they formerly stood, and perish. I have known some fine stocks ruined by moving them six feet, and from that to a mile and a half. It is best to move them before swarming than afterwards. The old bees only will be lost. As the young ones are constantly hatching, their habits will be formed at the new stand, and the canals will not be as likely to become vacated, so as to afford opportunity to the moths to occupy any part of their ground.

Swarms, when first hived, may be moved at pleasure without loss of bees, admitting they are all in the hive; their habits will be formed in exact proportion to their labors. The first bee that empties his sack and goes forth in search of food, is the one whose habits are first established. I have observed many bees to cluster near the place where the hive stood, but a few hours after hiving, and perish. Now if the swarm had been placed in the apiary, immediately after they were hived, the number of bees found there would have been less.

Bees may be moved at pleasure at any season of the year, if they are carried several miles, so as to be beyond their knowledge of country. They may be carried long journeys by traveling nights only, and affording them opportunity to labor and collect food in the day time.

The importance of this part of bee management is the only apology I can make for dwelling so long on this point. I have known many to suffer serious losses in consequence of moving their bees after they were well settled in their hives.

Bees should never be irritated, under any pretence whatever. They should be treated with attention and kindness. They should be kept undisturbed by cattle and all other annoyances, so that they may be approached at any time with safety.

An apiary should be so situated, that swarming may be observed, and at the same time where the bees can obtain food easily, and in the greatest abundance. A bee house should be so constructed as to secure the bees perfectly from the rays of the sun, and weather. All the light the bees can have about the hive is necessary, to induce them to swarm early in the season and a plenty of good air (not air exhausted of its vitality,) is absolutely necessary to promote their health, prevent them from acquiring habits of indolence, and hostile feelings, at the same time, a strong current of air, in the immediate region of the hive, near the entrance, where the bees alight, must be avoided; otherwise, when the bees slack up their speed, to alight, the wind will blow them so far from the hive, that many of them fall, and perish.

Much depends on the construction of the house, as well as the hive. It has been a general practice to front bee houses either to the east or south. This doctrine should be exploded with all other whims. Apiaries should be so situated as to be convenient to their owner, as much as any other buildings. I have them front towards all the cardinal points, but can distinguish no difference in their prosperity.

Young swarms should be scattered as much as convenient during the summer season, at least eight feet apart. If they are not housed, they should be set in a frame, and so covered as to exclude the sun and weather from the hive. As a general rule, bees flourish better in valleys than on high hills contiguous to them, on account of bearing their burthen home with greater ease, descending, than ascending, with a heavy load.

It is not surprising that this branch of rural

economy, in consequence of the depredations of the moth, is so much neglected. Notwithstanding, in some parts of our country, the business of managing bees has been entirely abandoned for years. I am confident they may be cultivated in such a manner as to render them more profitable to the owners than any branch of agriculture, in proportion to the capital necessary to be invested in their stock. They are not taxable property, neither does it require a large land investment, nor fences; neither does it require the owner to labor through the summer to support them through the winter. Care is, indeed, necessary; but a child, or superannuated person can perform most of the duties of an apiarist. The colonies must be kept away from the immediate vicinity of the hive, and all other annoyances removed.

The management of bees is a delightful employment, and may be pursued with the best success in cities and villages, as well as towns and country. It is a source of great amusement, as well as comfort and profit. They collect honey and bread from most kinds of forest trees, as well as garden flowers, orchards, forests, and fields;—all contribute to their wants, and their owner is gratified with a taste of the whole. Sweet mignonette cannot be too highly recommended. This plant is easily cultivated by drills in the garden, and is one of the finest and richest flowers in the world from which the honey-bee can extract its food.

The Vermont Hive is the only one I can use to much advantage or profit. In the summer of 1834, I received in swarms and extra honey from my best stock, thirty dollars; and from my poorest, fifteen dollars. My early swarms afforded extra honey which was sold, amounting to from five to ten dollars each hive; and all my late swarms which were doubled, stored a sufficient quantity of food to supply them through the following winter.

The rules in the foregoing work, perhaps, may be deemed, in some instances, too particular; yet, in all cases, they will be found to be safe and unerring in their application, though liable to exceptions, such as are incident to all specific rules.

Every bee-owner should be able to answer the following questions in the affirmative, if he wishes to make his bees profitable:—

Have you weighed and marked the weight on all your hives before using them?

Have you scratched the under side of the chamber floor?

Did you secure the hive from the rays of the sun at the time of hiving the bees?

Did you let the bees into the drawers at the time of hiving all your large swarms?

Did you close the hive, and move it as directed?

Have you let down the bottom board, and turned the drawers as directed?

Have you removed your honey before buckwheat is in blossom?

Have you taken the Queens from all your late swarms?

Have you turned your drawers so as to prevent the breath of the bees from entering them in September?

Have you fed your destitute stocks in October?

Have you weighed your stock hives, and is there at least 25 lbs. in addition to the weight of the hive on the first of December?

Have you been particular to see that all your hives are properly ventilated, and the bees kept lively during cold weather?

Have you turned the drawers to all your stock hives, so that the bees can enter them as soon as blossoms are seen in the spring?

Have you visited your bees, and examined their true condition, two or three times in each week, through the whole year?

Appendix.

The Hive is made of three rough boards, half inch thick, seven inches wide, eighteen inches long, nailed together like a common trough, open at both ends—a strap of iron riveted on its

outside; across the centre of each board, with a shank or socket to insert a rod to handle it with, so that when inverted by means of the rod, and placed over the bees when alighting, forms a kind of half hive, which they readily enter. There should be from a dozen to twenty half-inch holes bored through the top board, so as to let the alighting bees enter through the holes. When a small proportion of the bees are found in the hive, it may be moved a few feet from the lamb, which may be shaken with another rod with a hook on its end, which disengages the bees, and in a few moments the whole swarm will be found in the hive. By the addition of l-rules and joints, the hive may be raised to any reasonable height. Thus the labor of climbing, the use of ladders, and cutting the limbs of precious fruit trees is entirely dispensed with. It likewise enables the apiarist in large establishments to divide out and keep separate his swarms, which might otherwise alight in any one body.

But another method of collecting and hiving swarms, is recommended by some good beekeepers, which is of prime importance when the experiment succeeds. It is this:—

Take any common rough board, fourteen inches or more in width, twelve feet or more in length, let one end of the board rest on the hive that is to swarm—say half the distance from the mouth or common entrance to the top—the other end on the ground. When swarming takes place, the bees will usually be found clustered in a body on the under side of the board, not far from the old stock. Any one will know how to turn the board over, and place an empty hive over the bees. Bees, when swarming in this way, will be less likely to be seen, and therefore may flee to the woods, unless assiduously watched. The hive should likewise be secured from the rays of the sun.

Manure of Fowls.—We regret to see so little attention paid to the saving of pigeon and hen dung. The manure of any kind of birds is extremely valuable for growing melons, or indeed, vine-crops of any kind. Cucumbers, squashes, pumpkins, and especially melons, grown with hen or pigeon dung are said to be sweeter and more delicate than those from any other manure whatever.—*American Agriculturist.*

THOMPSONIAN HERBS AND

ROOTS.—The Subscriber informs his Country Friends that he is now receiving a large supply of these celebrated and useful Medicines, and for their Satisfaction enumerates the following, viz:—White Pond Lily Root, White Hazel Leaves, Squaw Weed, Bitter Herb, Poplar Bark, Bayberry Bark, Golden Seal, Burdock Leaves and Roots, Skunk Cabbage, Elm Bark, Solomon's Seal, Dandelion, Wake Robin Root, Gold Thread, Prickly Ash Bark, Coltsfoot, Comfrey Root, &c. &c. &c.

Likewise a constant supply of all the SHAKERS' Herbs and Extracts, which hitherto have been so difficult to procure in this market; with a general Assortment of Drugs, Medicines, &c.

ROBERT LOVE, Druggist,
Yonge Street.

Toronto, June, 1844.

THOROUGH-BRED DURHAM BULL

FOR SALE.—The Subscriber offers for sale a thorough bred **DURHAM BULL**, five years old, which will be disposed of on reasonable terms. His Dam and Sire were imported from England, in 1838, by Mr. George Simpson, of Newmarket Grange. The herd from which Mr. Simpson made his selection were among the very best improved Durham stock in Yorkshire. Any farmer or breeder who is desirous of purchasing a very superior animal, of this unrivalled breed, would do well to call upon the subscriber before buying elsewhere, as the Bull in question has been pronounced, by competent judges, to be one of the very best in the country.

H. THOMPSON.

Township of Toronto, May 30, 1844.
N.B. Application by Letter to be directed to the Etobicoke Post-office.