

INTRODUCTION.

There is but little doubt that the honey bee has been more or less associated with man from the earliest dawn of creation. The observing and thinking mind has in all ages been deeply interested in the honey bee and its workmanship. The study of the honey bee is well calculated to awaken in the mind of every true lover of nature not only a deep interest, but a lasting admiration of its wonderful instincts. The indomitable energy and perseverance of honey bees in collecting stores for the future should put to shame the lazy, slothful loafers who are everywhere to be found trying to live without labor on the industry of others.

Bees are sometimes kept for pleasure or recreation, but chiefly for profit. They are the only live stock that can truly be said to be self-supporting. They not only gather their food in summer, but lay up their store for winter, and with but little care will yield a bountiful supply of delicious sweets for their owners. If bees required strict attention every day to sustain life, they would undoubtedly be better cared for than they now are by most bee-keepers.

No good farmer complains of the trouble and expense of caring for cattle, pigs, and sheep two or three times a day. Less than half this time given to studying the nature and wants of the honey bee, and putting the same into practice, would seldom fail to give abundant success.

Although a great many works have been written on bee-culture, still there is no branch of rural industry