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M. B. HOLMES.

A CORRESPONDENT who has long been familiar with the bee-keepers of the counties of Leeds and Grenville, and who also gives instruction to those desiring it in beekeeping, sends us the following sketch:—

Editor Canadian Bee Journal.—

The subject of the above cut, Mr. M. B. Holmes, was born in the township of Bastard, County of Leeds, July, 29th, 1853, and is of Irish descent.

He commenced beekeeping in 1882, not

by his will and consent aforethought, but by a fortuitous incident, a swarm of bees coming to him in the harvest field in 1881. Being of a thoughtful turn of mind he acted on such information as he had time to acquire in the spare hours from the duties of superintending the farm. The result of his assiduous attention in six years is sixty colonies besides considerable sales and eleven thousand pounds of extracted honey. In the meantime he incorporated into his apiary a good percentage of Italian blood by introducing queens of that race.

He became a member of the B. K. A. of Ontario in 1884, and has been a director since that date.

I have noticed, Mr. Editor, in an acquaintance of over thirty years with hundreds of clever beekeepers in this as well as other countries, that nearly every enterprising apiarian in the course of events, is compelled to step on to the Bridge of Sighs and look a moment on the little stream below, where air castles are swiftly borne past on its turbulent beam. On the left bank he sees "blasted hopes" like phantoms, while on the right may be seen the wrecked paraphernalia of his genius. Some pass on with a defiant wave of the hand, others retreat and are never heard of again. When a stranger gets on the bridge, if honest, a hundred voices shout, "Come on; we have been there." Just here this Journal, by helping the doubter over the bridge, has done more good than in any other way.

Misfortune and mistakes may diminish