

Reply to "Douce Halvers."

"DOUCE HAIVERS" is the caption of an article in your last issue from the pen of Mr. Allen Pringle. *Douce Haivers*, being interpreted, means decent nonsense, with a sarcastic emphasis on *decent*. The article referred to treats of "women in office," and has special reference to the World's Fair, and its alleged lady manager. Mr. Pringle says many things of woman complimentary and otherwise. He speaks of her brains and business ability, and compares these with man's leaving no doubt in his opinion of her inferiority. Amongst other things he says: "Man has his sphere—woman has hers—Nature has duly attended to that matter, and her decrees are inexorable and irrevocable. * * * In her proper place woman is a thing of beauty and a joy forever. Out of her place she is—well, a round peg in a square hole." I would like to see Mr. Pringle modify his opinion, and frankly admit that woman is not out of her place, or detracting from the dignity of her sex, whilst discharging duties for which she is eminently qualified, whether these be mending stockings or managing Fairs. It is true all women are not possessed of high executive ability, no more are all men. Some women are foolish and frivolous, and some men are empty-pated dudes. It is a question if there be not a larger proportion of clever women than there are of able men. The world is coming to estimate the sexes on their respective merits. It is only amongst barbarous nations that men are now held to be the "lords of creation," and women square pegs in round holes when they aspire to anything higher than the management of a kitchen. As knowledge increases and civilization advances women's right to rule is conceded—even her qualification to make laws to govern man is acknowledged. When she realizes her own power and privileges, and takes a larger part in legislating for the good of humanity, there will be more honesty and less corruption in law-making assemblies. Her nature leads her to "do justly and love mercy," while "man is the creature of ambition, seeking after fame, fortune, space in the world's thoughts and dominion over his fellow-man," and not infrequently over woman as well. But, sir, a bee journal is not the place to discuss the brain power of women as compared with that of man. Under any circumstances I should be foolish to do so with your erudite correspondent. Indeed the matter has been settled long ago by third class phrenologists whose opinion Mr. Pringle has evidently imbibed. But even he must admit that as a general rule women discharge the duties entrusted to them with more honesty and exactitude than men. Duties well and faithfully

done prove the ability of those who discharge them—and ability means brains. The work of the "Lady Manager" to whom he takes exception, is a case in point. But by the way, Mrs. Potter Palmer is not the Manager of the World's Fair. A misconception of her position on the part of Mr. Pringle makes his premises false, and his deductions therefrom erroneous. She is President of the *Lady Managers*, and the work already done by the Committee of women over which she presides proves the wisdom of the Management in selecting a lady of the eminent business habits and marked executive ability she has displayed thus far in aiding them in their great enterprise. She has already perfected an organization of women in every State of the Union. In Great Britain and the nations of Europe who have entered upon the collection of a display of the industries in which women are engaged, including science, arts and literature which when brought to Chicago will be the grandest display of the kind ever before seen in one place, and will serve to show the important part played by women in all that is useful as well as ornamental. A bare enumeration of the Committees she has organized, and the work they have already done, would fill pages of your paper. She has extended her work into far away Russia, where already an Imperial Commission of its women are at work collecting an exhibit of feminine handiwork in that country. Crowned heads have been induced by her to contribute their quota to the success of the Fair. Queen Victoria herself has promised her a contribution of her spinning, knitting, embroidery, drawing and painting done by her when a girl. She has organized Clubs in Chicago of foreign women who have undertaken to give counsel to their country women, and to act as guides and interpreters for them in a strange land whilst engaged in sight-seeing. Nor has she confined her labors to organizing women-working parties throughout the world; for this "woman in office" has caused to be erected upon the Fair grounds a massive structure that will accommodate 10,000 girls with board and safe lodging while the exhibition lasts, and another building that is to cost \$20,000, in which young children may be kept and cared for while their parents are abroad seeing the sights.

It is not likely, therefore, that Mr. Pringle's ungentle suggestion will be acted upon for "Chicago to retire the ladies from that Board, and put in good, sound business men of experience to manage that Fair;" nor are there any grounds for fear that the interests of Canadian honey exhibitors will suffer at the hands of the "Lady President."

MAUD MORRIS.