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IN VINDICATION.

For The Practical Bee-Keeper.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

In the American Bee Journal of Nov. 2nd, 1893, (I think that was the date) there appeared an account of the lamentable death of Mrs. Van Deusen, in that terrible railroad accident in the G. T. R. at Battle Creek. The A. B. J. in giving the account, went out of its way to make an uncalled for attack on so-called "infidels" and "scoffers." I noticed the fact at the time, but much as I felt like replying, I decided to pass it by in silence for more than one reason. Another correspondent, however, Mr. Wheeler, replied to the editor in vigorous fashion, in a letter which appeared in the issue of Nov. 16th. When I saw the comments of the editor of the A. B. J. appended to Mr. Wheeler's letter, I felt that forbearance was no longer a virtue. I accordingly replied, where-upon Mr. York announced that he had decided not to admit any reply to his columns. I remonstrated, showing him that as he had himself commenced the controversy by an unprovoked attack on so considerable number of his readers, and kept it up in his comments the second time to which there had been no reply published, he was in honor bound to hear from those assailed. Brother York's arguments why we should not get a hearing were, to say the least, peculiar, and with the usual courage and fairness which charac-

terize some of our christian friends when they get in a corner—my reply was never permitted to see the light.

The later editorial deliverances, to which I took exception, and to which I certainly had the right to reply, were as follows:— "The very best writers of bee-literature to-day and those who are doing and ever have done, the most for practical bee-culture, are almost without a single exception, earnest Christians," and the editor said he did not "believe there was a sincere infidel in existence to-day."

That was the last deliverance, and quite in keeping with the first attack. Now, as a goodly number of the readers and contributors of the A. B. J. (and even some of Mr. York's brother editors) belong to that class of thinkers Mr. York calls "infidels," this opinion of the journal concerning them and their sincerity would appear to be not overly complimentary. However, as nobody is to blame for his honest opinions, no matter how absurd or untrue they may be, the editor of the Journal has the fullest right to his opinion of his agnostic friends.

But the other asseveration as to the pious character of "the very best writers of bee-literature to day" is quite another affair as it touches a matter of fact, not opinion.

The following is, for the most part, what I wrote to the A. B. J., but which, it seems, was hewing just a little too close to the line for brother York to stand: "Now, in availing myself of my right to