

multiplication of bee journals an evil. If those we have on the continent of North America were boiled down to about three or four they might all be first-class. The *Review* quotes with commendation an article from the *Bee-Keepers' Magazine* on this subject, but I do not see how its appearance helps the matter in the least. There is nothing in this number of the *Review* that any one of the leading bee journals would not have gladly welcomed to its columns. Friend H. will not be able to furnish pure wheat without any admixture of chaff. He tried to make the Detroit Convention the most sober, practical, hardworking assembly of bee-keepers that ever met anywhere. It turned out the most merry and hilarious one ever held, and yet everyone admitted that it was a very profitable occasion. You cannot feed any animal wholly on highly-condensed victuals. Horses and oxen must have some coarse fodder, and Burdette never said a truer thing than when he affirmed that the man who was destitute of humor and facetiae might safely write himself down "an ass."

It is too much the case that whenever a man begins to think himself something of a bee-keeper he must invent a hive; and whenever a bee-keeper begins to think himself a writer he must start a bee-journal. "Next!" Of course in this free country every man's at liberty to constitute himself an editor if he wants to; and equally of course, every man is free to express his opinion as to the wisdom, or otherwise of the step. He must take the consequences of his frankness, however, as I am prepared to do. I suppose if I had patted friend H. on the back, and said "Go it, W.Z., the more the merrier!" he and his admirers generally would have liked me better, but I can't help it. I ain't in the taffy business, but notwithstanding what I have said, I am one of Mr. H's warmest friends, and sincerest well-wishers.

W. F. CLARKE.

St. Thomas, Ont., Feb. 3rd, 1888.

From our British Correspondent.

MEL SAPIT OMNIA.

MR. Demaree, on page 813, wonders why our "Standard frame" has a top-bar 17 in. long. I am sorry I have not made the reasons clear to him on page 738 probably a cut would have done so. It may interest him to know that many hives are made to take "Standard" frames with a 15½ in. top-bar, but these hives are "single-walled" such as Fig. 1 on page 790. Mr. Cowan's hive also has a short top-bar. I omitted to mention the fact when I gave a description of it. For myself, I

prefer the 17 in. top-bar with all diffidence to the remarks of the editor of the C.B.J. on page 650, while my MSS were in his pigeon hole.

May I add my congratulations to yours, Mr. Editor, to our friend Dr. Mason on his appointment to the presidential chair. I hope he will settle the question of naming *lime* honey, *alias* basswood, *alias* linden, to his satisfaction.

Yesterday eve I was up to the quarterly *conversazione* of the B.B.K.A. We were rather a small company, but very enthusiastic. Mr. Grimshaw opened a discussion on "specialization." This led to a somewhat desultory but very animated conversation. It developed into a very chatty and decidedly good-natured meeting. "Sending queens by mail" was especially lively and interesting. I think your readers are aware bees are not allowed to travel through the post by our authorities, and official stupidity will hear no appeal from us. We recounted some of our experiences and attempts to evade the regulations. I strenuously advocated fighting the official stupidity, but everybody else said, "go slow" especially the chairman for the evening, (Mr. Cowan, of course, is in Switzerland). I still maintained my ground, remarking: England is a reproach amongst nations for government official stupidity, and what our officials wanted teaching, was that they existed for the country, not the country for them. Now, that sentiment is downright radicalism and rebellion. Ah! I fear I am becoming utterly demoralized by my Republican and semi-monarchical associates.

Yesterday's daily papers were full of harrowing accounts of the "blizzard" in Uncle Sam's country. I thought of our bee-keeping friends there many times. I shall look for my bee-papers from the States with painful interest. "A touch of nature does make all flesh kin."

Our winter, on the whole, has been very mild and favorable. I presume most of my queens are breeding, probably all, as they are all young, but, of course, I have not examined any of them. The bees have flown many days as if it were summer.

AMATEUR EXPERT.

England, Jan. 20th, 1888.

You have made a few mistakes in my articles which I must ask you to correct if you have not done so before you get this:

Page 738, second column.—Standard frames can be made from boards nine inches deep, etc., after the board is placed, should be planed.

The labor price of metal ends is 2½ pence per gross, not 2 shillings and 2 pence.

The metal end, Fig. 4 is upside down. Neighbour's hive, page 792, should be Fig. 4 not Fig. 2. Abbott's hive, page 793, should be Fig. 5 not Fig. 4.