

fire which has just devastated our pretty little town, and which has turned us all upside down, it is difficult for us, at a moment's notice, to tell the difference from Dr. Faustus. As soon as we recover from the shock, however, and are able to draw a sufficiently long breath with which to announce their names and additions without violence to anybody's feelings, we shall certainly attend to *Gleanings'* request. In the meantime, an esteemed friend and contributor anticipates our intentions with the following original distich, which we submit for our cotemporary's immediate and temporary relief:—

Assistant-editor?—Oh, yes,
You ask to know. We tell you this:
He is a man, and quite full grown,
And sits on guard behind the throne.

We published about a month ago a notice respecting a honey and fruit farm for sale near Hamilton, to which we had almost immediately a batch of replies. That farm has been bought and sold once or twice, if not more frequently, since then; and we still have inquiries about it. The fact simply and practically reveals the value of the BEE JOURNAL as an advertizing medium. We have no doubt that the property is now held at a fancy price, as we still receive inquiries from anxious purchasers whom we continue to refer to the fortunate succeeding competitors for possession.

According to *Le Rucher*, there is an order in France—or rather there was one (for we are not sure that it is still in existence), called “l’Ordre de la Mouche-à-miel,” or “Order of the Honey Bee.” It was established, some authors say, in June, 1763, and others in 1817, at Sceaux, by Anne, grand-daughter of the great Conde, afterwards duchess of Maine, by her marriage with Louis de Bourbon, duke of Maine. She was sixteen years of age when she married the Bourbon. She is described as being very small in stature, of pleasing appearance, but great at intriguing, and very vindictive. It is probable that the order was founded by her upon the occasion of her marriage with the duke of Bourbon. The insignia adopted for it was a bee, and the legend was from one of Tasso’s verses: “*Piccola sì, ma fa pur gravi le ferite.*” “She is little, but she makes cruel wounds.” *Le*

Rucher says that the low stature of the youthful duchess explained the first part of the device, and either her beauty or her intriguing and vindictive disposition might well explain the other.

Bees should be put into winter quarters dry, as damp combs are very objectionable in many respects. Dampness seems to affect the bees very seriously causing them to become uneasy and gorge themselves. They seem to get chilled, too, by a very moist atmosphere, just as we should under the same circumstances, or when the temperature is above the freezing point. Let us imagine for a moment how we should feel under these conditions, and then think of the tiny little pets that become (when separated from the cluster) to all appearance numb and dead under the effects of a temperature below forty degrees, and we can soon see that the drier and freer from moisture and dampness they are kept the better. Not only does it affect them directly, but it does so indirectly. Moisture and dampness is sure to cause mould, and then follow all the evil consequences of sour pollen and sour honey. It is a recognized fact, besides, that sour, thin and watery honey fed to bees under confinement is sure to occasion dysentery. The chemical change that takes place renders the food unfit for the bees, and the only way to make it useful for winter store and to expel the water is to evaporate it by boiling and skimming the sour honey. In fact there are very strong reasons for evaporating a much larger proportion of the moisture that the honey contains, and it may be prepared much more quickly, if after it is boiled and skimmed, a sufficient quantity of granulated sugar is put with it to thicken it, the boiling, however, being still continued until the sugar has been all melted and incorporated with the honey. If anybody desires to experiment with capped honey, let him put a capped comb into a damp cellar, and observe how long it takes to absorb enough moisture through the capping to sour the honey within and burst the capping.

The less water bees take into their stomachs during confinement the better; so, always endeavor to keep up the animal heat, for thus their lives are pro-