

gathering from. By this means we would catch a number and carry them in this box going straight ahead until we arrived at a favorable spot where we supposed they were located. We would then place the box on a stand and allow one bee at a time to escape and by this means we could ascertain very rapidly whether we had passed by the tree or not. Frequently we would stop very near their location. Sometimes we would go by the tree and instead of the bees going farther they would fly back in the same direction that we had come through at times they would fly off to the right or left as we had missed our course and walked through to the right or left of the line. If the tree was in a dense bush or swamp where it would be difficult to follow it straight ahead, we would get the line where they went into the bush keeping back from the bush with our box from 20 to 40 rods, in order to get the course correctly but without entering the wood. After securing that line we would then take the box with as many bees as we could catch in it and go off to the right or the left to a favorable location and cross line them. After putting the box down we would watch them again as before and mark their line. Now, for argument's sake, we will say that the box sat in the south of the woods. The next time we put it to the east of the woods. We would troll these two lines through until they would reach each other in the timber and if we had an accurate line the point where the two lines crossed each other would not be 20 feet from the tree. Then, by going and looking at them, we could see them passing in and out of their home. Sometimes when they are high up in pine trees it is very difficult to see them pass in as the undergrowth or smaller timber sometimes prevents the view but you can tell pretty nearly by the looks of the tree whether it has a hollow in it or is likely to have bees in. In that case we walk around twenty or even more rods from the tree. We leave the sun directly on the opposite side of the tree and the bright rays reflecting on each side, we standing in the shadow looking towards the sky. In this position we are able to see the bees pass in and out through the hole in the trunk or limbs of the tree, as the case may be, more than 100 ft. high. If you just

shade the sun from your eyes with your hat or with any object, you could see a mosquito or a small fly an immense distance away. This is perhaps rather a long description of hunting bees but we have had so many inquiries about bee hunting and it seems to have such a fascination about it that we thought we would describe it just fully.

From The British Bee Journal.

#### Mr. COWAN'S VISIT TO AMERICA.

THE reception that has been accorded to Mrs. and Mr. Cowan during their visit to Canada and the United States has been most cordial, and bears strong testimony to the good-will that subsists between bee-keepers on both sides of the Atlantic. In acknowledgment of kindnesses received, the following has been forwarded by Mr. Cowan for insertion in the *Bee Journal*:

We think it only right, in justice to the kindness we have received from our many Canadian and American friends here, to send a few lines to the *Bee Journal* to mention the warm, hearty welcome we have everywhere received, having been guests in several families for days.

We have, throughout our journey, been treated with the greatest hospitality and consideration, and shall ever remember with pleasure our coming over to this New World—so wonderful in its growth and spirit of progress. We shall carry away with us pleasant recollections, many of which appear later on in the pages of the *Journal*. Suffice it now to say, we are anxious to state this at once that our friends here may see how much we have appreciated their kindness. We leave New York in the *Umbria*, which is to sail on the 1st October.

Western Agriculturist.

#### HOW TO SECURE STRAIGHT COMBS.

THIS is the basis of successful bee-culture, for it is impossible to handle the bees, unless the combs are hanging perfectly straight in the frames, so as to be easily taken out separately.

The plan formerly in use, and indicated by Langstroth, was a bevel on the lower side of the top-bar. This bevel made in the shape of a **V**, was sometimes made very small, and usually succeeded tolerably. Yet it happened very often that the bees would join the comb of one frame to that of another, and when they were full of honey, it was impossible to separate them, without cutting the comb and causing a great deal of honey to run out, drowning bees and sometimes attracting robbers.