

From Prairie Farmer.

GENERAL USEFULNESS OF BEES.

HERE appears to be a growing antagonism between bee-culturists, horticulturists, and stock-raisers. Why should this be? Are they not brethren? And does not the prosperity of one aid in the advancement of the others? The horticulturist may dig, graft, and bud, and what will the returns be without the labors of the bee? The Creator has provided no other means for the fertilization of flowers but the visits of insects, and there are no other insects at this time of the year to flit from flower to flower. The body of the honey-bee is wisely adapted to this purpose, being covered with fine hairs, invisible to the naked eye, which brush off and carry the fertilizing powder to the germ that requires it. The fruit sets better, even when the tree has perfect flowers, containing both pistils and stamens, if pollen from another flower, or better still, from another tree, is brushed upon its germ. Who has not observed that a long continued rain storm, occurring during fruit bloom, in preventing these little messengers from their rounds, is followed by a failure of fruit?

IGNORANT PREJUDICE.

When some stock-raiser sees a neighboring bee-keeper have tons of honey gathered from his meadows, he thinks he has been robbed, and his clover is less sweet for his cattle. He ponders over it until he concludes that he is a much-abused individual, and must have redress in some way. He does not see what he has gained; forgetting that "crops will flourish all the more, when flowers mate by rifled store." Bees have a big job on their hands fertilizing the crops of the farmers. Clover would become extinct if it were not for their labors, and corn, buckwheat and other plants are benefited by their presence. Many flowers have their own fertilizing insects, and cannot propagate without their agency. *Dicentra spectabilis* perfects no seed in this country because its fertilizing moth has never been imported. Messrs. Farmer, Gardener, Horticulturist and Stock-raiser, the bee is your servant and appears to have been created especially for your benefit. The honey that is secreted in the nectaries of flowers is apparently for no other purpose than a free lunch spread for the bees, inviting them to come and dine; and as they partake and fill their sacks with nectar, and pack their panniers with bread, they act as messengers carrying the fertilizing agent to another flower.

THE SHEEP-BEES LAW SUIT

in Wisconsin lately attracted considerable attention. It was claimed by the shepherd that the bees drove the sheep from their feeding

grounds and caused great loss to their owner. It is the instinct of the bee to defend its hive, and its sting is its weapon of defense, and is never used away from home, except when pinched or hurt. An animal soon learns to know the difference between the happy hum of industry, as it flits from flower to flower, and that of infuriated bees in defense of home. The judge in this suit wisely decided that there "was no cause of action," and dismissed the suit. If a ram had butted over a bee-hive, then there would have been damage to both parties.

BEEES VS. GRAPES.

This suit in California lately was brought by an owner of a vineyard, claiming damages against the owner of a bee-ranch. Though it was clearly proven that the proboscis or bill of the bee is constituted to lap or suck up sweets, and not able to tear open the skin of fruits, the case went against the defendant. When the skin of grapes, peaches, or pears is punctured by birds, wasps, or other depredators, then the bees suck out the juices. When raisin growers and large apiaries are contiguous, it would be well for both parties to take a common-sense view of the matter, and provide against contingencies. If grapes are exposed to dry in the open air and sunshine, where bees can have access to them, every grape broken from the stem or with the skin broken in any way, will have its juices sucked out, until nothing but the husk and seeds remain. Would it not be better, if both parties united and purchased wire netting or mosquito-bar, to keep off the bees than go to law about it?

THE GOLDEN RULE

to "do unto others as ye would that they should do to you," will do to tie to, by bee-keepers, farmers etc.. All owners of bees should use every precaution that their bees do not annoy or damage animals or persons. In the early days of our bee-keeping we set bee-hives near the side-walk, and annoyed no one passing along excepting a woman who indulged very freely in beer. The bees seemed to dislike her, and frequently stung her, when her ejaculations were more forcible than elegant. Boys would throw stones at the front of the hives, to see them rush out, and this angered them. And we concluded that the bees should be placed where they would not attack any one, and at a distance from hitching posts where horses are tied.

MRS. L. HARRISON

Peoria, Ill.

F. P. CLARE.—Bees safely housed on the 20th, and winter seems to have set in in earnest with us here.

Lombardy, Ont., Nov. 26th, '85.