

GENERAL.

Annual Meeting Ontario Bee-Keepers Association London, Ont. 1892.

THE meeting of Directors was held at London, January 5th, 1892. Members present, President Pringle, vice-President Gemmell, W. J. Brown, J. K. Darling, C. W. Post, S. Corneil, W. Couse, A. Pickett, F. A. Rose, R. McKnight and A. W. Humphries. The accounts were closed, books audited, &c., and meeting closed.

Twelfth annual meeting of the Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association met in the City Hall on Jan. 5th. Meeting called to order at 3 p.m. by President Pringle, there being about fifty bee-keepers present. The Sec'y read the minutes of last annual meeting which were adopted, and also the financial report which was adopted. The Treasurer's report was read by Mr. McKnight, and after being audited was adopted.

Then followed the reading of the President's address.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

BEE-KEEPERS' AND FRIENDS:—

IN meeting together again in our Annual Convention we naturally look not only back over the past year to see what *has been*, but forward over the coming year to see, if possible, what *will be*—or at any rate what we *desire* to be—for we are not always able to compass our desires or realize our anticipations, and if we are worthy citizens of this progressive age we will make every year an improvement on its predecessor not only in the matter of bee keeping but in every other matter. We ought, therefore, to be better apiarists than we were last year and better men and citizens in every way.

It is sometimes said that there is nothing but *change* in the world. Now, while there certainly is something else in the world besides change, certain it is that everything is changing—even the granite rocks and the "everlasting hills"! As to humanity and their doings, if every change is for the better, all hail to the changes! But some of the changes are, I am sorry to say, for the worse. The bee-keepers, however, being an exceptional lot, are I think mostly changing for the better. But I shall not moralize, or read you homilies. There is hardly time for that in these rushing times, though the necessity exists.

The changes in bee-culture have doubtless been greater during the past fifty years than during the previous five thousand years. From

the time long ago when the bees (so we are told) made a hive out of the anatomy of a dead lion, and Samson robbed them of their honey without smoker or extractor, there has been considerable change and improvement, not only on that peculiar style of hive, but in a good many other bee-keeping appliances. But if Samson had no smoker, or "bee-escapes," or other new fangled affairs of that kind, wherewith to circumvent those primitive bees, he had, it seems, plenty of strength, if that would avail him anything in a contest of that sort. At any rate, he got the honey in some way out of the carcass of that dead lion, which he had rent and slain a short time before. And Samson did eat of the honey, we are told, which is just what we would do ourselves under the circumstances were the hive of modern make and the contents therefore more toothsome. But although he was a hearty man and evidently not at all fastidious Samson was not able to eat all the honey he got for he took some away to his father and mother and they did eat. He also no doubt (though the account does not say so) took some to his affianced, for remember Samson was on his way to get a wife when he found that honey in the dead lion.

There has been of course great improvement in our methods and appliances since that time; and from that day to this, there has been a general and pretty keen taste in mankind (and womankind) for the sweet nectar of flowers, which, when gathered by the bees, half digested in transit, and stored in the comb, we call honey. This is one of the good appetites which man has ever since retained; while he has in the interval gathered up many bad ones. And as it is much easier to take up a bad habit than to get rid of it—an ounce of prevention being better than a pound of cure—it is advisable not to take the bad habits up, or even to nibble at them. But here I am again moralizing which is perhaps pardonable at the beginning of a New Year as we all form many good resolutions about this time, but few of us keep them. It is better however to attempt to do well and fail than not to try at all; and as human nature is said to be weak on some of its sides the failures may be condoned. But here I am again running off into a humily. Well, the fact is I have had no time at all of late to either think out or write out a set essay for this occasion; and when I sat down a few minutes ago to write something in the way of a presidential address I had no idea till my pen was inked what I was going to say. Nor is it necessary for me to say much here, further than to give you some account of my official work during the year and