

# THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

"The Greatest Possible Good to the Greatest Possible Number."

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## FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. HOLTERMANN'S EXPLANATION.

MR. EDITOR,—

I have carefully read the articles of Messrs. Clarke and Hutchinson in the last number of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL, and I must really, in justice to myself, ask you to permit me to explain. First of all, I asked Doctor Wiley at the Washington convention if he could detect the difference between sugar syrup fed to the bees and stored by them and nectar gathered by the bees and stored, both being ripened. Doctor Wiley said "Yes, at certain temperatures." Did Mr. H. report this "No?" I purposely asked the question in that way, as scientific terms such as "invert sugar," etc., are not easily understood by many of us and are confusing. There were a good many present. Will any one else deny that I asked such a question, and that Doctor Wiley made such an answer? We all know there are different kinds of honey, but their sources are all from flowers. I suppose when we feed the bees maple syrup, according to Mr. Clarke, it will be maple syrup honey, or maple honey; yet where will this absurdity end? Mr. Clarke (page 3, second column C.B.J., April 1st, 1893) is actually making tutter from the ox. I have no doubt this can be done just as readily as that honey can be made out of sugar syrup.

As to condemning a man for what he may, can, or might do, I will confess I had received the *American Bee Journal* con-

taining Mr. Hutchinson's report of Doctor Wiley's address, and I saw no account of the clear question I asked Doctor Wiley following the address, and the answer he gave me. I felt safe to condemn then, but the report not being ended, it might (I say it might but not likely) appear later—hence my safeguard. But Mr. Hutchinson did not put it in.

I once read an account of a loon with her young suddenly coming into the presence of a hunter. The hunter captured the young bird; the parent did everything to attract the attention of the hunter. At first it feigned lameness, then inability to fly, and finally death, hoping in this way to draw the hunter away from the young loon. Mr. Clarke's remarks regarding my discretion and modesty remind me of the action of the loon. If I understand the uses of discretion and modesty, they would prevent me for instance from privately stating to members of a beekeepers' organization that my services to beekeepers should entitle me to honorary membership. But the humblest in the land have a privilege—yea, more, a duty to perform—in redressing wrong and pointing it out even if committed by the highest in the land; and the question—the important question—is not whether Prof. Clarke, as president of the Ontario Beekeepers' College, or R. F. Holtermann in his criticism of W. Z. Hutchinson, shows the greater valor or modesty. I am willing to yield the palm to Mr. Clarke.