

Harvest time came, but there was less of fruit by half than in the preceding years. Year followed year of almost failure, then the cry went up, "Bring back the bees!"

Nearly every community has some visting who has suffered pecuniarily from the ravages of the honey-bee! Birds, grasshoppers, nor insects ever molest; they have a sort of tender regard for his ripening fruits, in fact, are never seen, could not be enticed to partake, no, sir; but the accursed honey-bee (perhaps an offspring of that Massachusetts bee) swoops down upon his vineyard, scores and lacerates, bites and tears the ripe clusters from bottom to top, leaving them a bleeding mass for wasps and thrips to gorge upon! He relates his woes and losses to sympathizing friends and they condole with him in his misfortune, and pass resolutions to the effect that the bee is a mighty mean animal, and the man who keeps him is a worse one, and ought to be prosecuted for maintaining a nuisance!

Now, for the facts: It has been repeatedly demonstrated that it is impossible for a honey-bee to puncture a smooth-skin fruit, and any one will take the trouble to examine the structure of one, can satisfy himself of the absurdity of the thing. Experiments have been made all over Europe, as well as this country, and yet not a single case has been found where the honey-bee punctured the fruit. Yes, sir, they will eat or suck the fruit after it has been punctured by wasps or thrips, but not before. I have a little experimental station of my own, and invite all who feel disposed to visit it, and satisfy themselves in this matter of fruit eating.

To make a practical test of the theory of puncturing fruit, I selected bunches of the ripest and sweetest grapes, placed them on the frames over the brood-chamber in the hives where the bees could have free access to them. This

was three weeks ago. The grapes are there to-day, and untouched. The bees run over them, but pay no more attention to them than they would to so many marbles. I will guarantee any one immunity from stings who may wish to verify this statement, and satisfy himself.

There are several brother bee-keepers in this vicinity who have been to considered expense trying to build up an industry that will partially fill a long felt want, viz. : A pure article of honey, both comb and extracted. It is an industry that should be encouraged instead of discouraged. Apiculture and horticulture should go hand in hand; the field is large and inviting, and by attention and energy will return fair profits, I have heard the honey-bee maligned and misrepresented, so wrongfully accused of mischief that belonged elsewhere, that I raise my voice in its defense, and in behalf of my brother bee-keepers.—Council Grove, Kans.

## How I Make Fly Paper.

(No patent.).

### STICKY FLY PAPER.

MAS. A. L. HALLENBECK.

One pint castor oil.

One-half pint honey.

One and one-half pounds resin.

Heat the oil and honey together; when hot add the resin: stir till all is dissolved and thoroughly mixed. Spread on paper, and place where flies congregate. It makes no mess, and all flies stick fast. Two sheets of paper may be placed together, and, when wanted, pulled apart by warming a little by the fire. It will not dry up for a long time. Enough may be prepared at one time to last all the season. The preparation can be kept in any covered dish, and used when wanted.—P. B. K.