

mile, and rarely, if ever, fail in marking the very branch where they saw the little bit of white down disappear at the entrance of the hive. Here there is a halt, the prize is found, and they sit down to regain their breath, before ascending the tree, and to light a pipe, which old and young, men, women, and children, are extremely partial.

When the rest and smoke are over, with one arm around the tree, and the tomahawk in the other, the blackman notches in the bark, and placing the big toe in the notches of this hastily constructed stair, ascends till he comes to where the branches commence. Then putting the handle of the tomahawk between his teeth, he climbs with the ease and agility of a monkey, till he reaches the branch where he last saw the white down disappear. He then carefully sounds the branches with the back of his tomahawk, till the dull sound as distinct from the hollow sound, tells him where the hive is. A hole is then cut, and he puts his hand in and takes the honey out. If alone, the savage eats of the honey till he can eat no more and leaves the rest. But if others are with him, he cuts a square piece of bark, and after having his part of the hive as a reward for his exertion, brings down a mass of honey and comb mixed up together, which though not inviting, is greedily devoured by his partners below.

Bees in Pella, Iowa.

Many a heartache have we had since we last addressed you, in consequence of losing so many of our bees.

We had heard and read of bee cholera, but hoped we never should see its effects; but vain was our hope, for it made its appearance among our bees in the latter part of last winter, and many stocks were dead before we were aware of its presence. We removed the living stocks to their summer stands, cleaned them out, and fed sugar syrup, but many stocks died after been taken from the cellar.

When the disease disappeared, we had only thirteen (13) hives with bees in them; some had enough bees to cover five (5) frames of comb, and others had not more than sufficient to cover three frames, we had but four (4) stocks that did not show signs of the disease.

At this writing (July 8th) we have nineteen full stocks, and fourteen (14) nuclei of three (3) frames each, and two (2) glass nuclei of one frame each. Our bees have no comb to build this season, as there was good comb and plenty of honey left in the hives by the bees that died.

We are now raising queens from those imported last fall. Owen & Ladd, Brentwood, Tenn., are sadly mistaken when they suppose the foreign queen raisers thought they were sending queens to Miss Morgan over here in America, as we signed our name with Mrs. prefixed, when we ordered our queens, so you see there was no particular charm in the

prefix. But it may be that they are partial to the weaker sex, to test this matter we advise importers to use the names of their better half when ordering foreign queens. Ours came all in good order, and not one died during the winter, only where the bees died with cholera, and no one could expect a queen to live when her colony were all dead. — *American Bee Journal*.

Mortality amongst Bees.

(To the Editor.)

SIR:—In the CANADA FARMER of the 15th June, I notice an article entitled "What is the cause of the great mortality among bees?" Now, sir, as I have during the past winter and Spring lost eighty-six hives out of eighty-seven, I am interested in this question, and I am glad that you do not like many other bee keepers, jump at a hasty conclusion on the matter, and assert that so-and-so is a fact without first gathering all the information you can. In the locality where I reside, I find that whole apiaries died under precisely the same varied circumstances. For instance: I wintered my bees in the same place (and a good one it was, too,) that I had wintered them for years previous, without losing any and under the same management, lost, as above stated, eighty-six out of eighty-seven. With some hives, honey was scarce, while others had from twenty to forty pounds, but all had to die alike and I was left with only one poor hive in the spring, in which to interest myself—quite a change from previous years, when I had bees by the million and honey to sell by the ton. My neighbour, Mr. B., put forty hives into winter quarters in good condition, and by March 15, 1872, had not a hive left. Mr. P., who is a very careful man, put away thirty-eight hives, and loses all but four, and, sir, I could enumerate instances of this kind by the dozen, and we are all in about the same fix as yourself, in so far as relates to knowing the real cause of this great mortality. I do not think that last spring there were more than four out of every hundred hives that survived; and now, while I write, the buckwheat fields are a sheet of white blossoms, and scarcely a bee left to visit them and collect the sweets that are going to waste.

J. E. SOLOMON

Brighton, August 12, 1872.

[We have also received a letter from Thos. C. Hill, Esq., Attorney, Sydney, Cape Breton, who was the first I believe, to introduce bees into that Island. He writes that he lost his entire stock, and could not understand why they died, as they had plenty of honey, and were wintered the same as in years before. It would be well for bee-keepers to make a note, the coming winter, of the condition their bees are in when put into winter quarters, and if possible discover the cause of the mortality should it occur again].

Poultry Pard.

Breeding and Feeding Turkeys.

The turkey does not attain its maturity until the third year, and the largest, strongest chicks can only be secured from mature parents. So common is the practice of selling off everything at a year old or less, that it is almost impossible to get stock two and three years old. In purchasing breeders, it is the best economy to buy the heaviest birds, even at fancy prices. A ten months' cock weighing thirty pounds is cheaper at fifty dollars, than a twenty pound bird at five. Young hens weighing sixteen to eighteen pounds are cheaper at twenty dollars, than twelve pound birds at five. Large well formed birds of perfect plumage will leave their mark upon their progeny. They will not only be more comely to look at, but they will bring much more satisfactory prices, whether we sell them to the butcher or to the breeder. Under the stimulus given to poultry raising by the numerous poultry societies and journals started in all parts of this country and Canada, there is likely to be a lively demand for extra breeding stock of all the finer varieties for some years to come. The breeder who goes in for the very best stock, taking premium birds when he can get them, and selling nothing from his yards but prime birds, will be likely to make the most money.

FEEDING.

The practice of most farmers who raise turkeys is not to feed at all after the young birds are six or eight weeks old. They are driven off to the pasture or woods, early in the morning, and can get their living where they can find it. Their chief food is grasshoppers and other insects, and they do the pastures and meadows a great service in keeping under these destructive creatures. This may be well enough where insects and such are plenty.—But upon many farms the range of woodland is exceedingly limited, and the growth of the birds will not be satisfactory without feed from the corn crib. They should come to the roost every night with full crops, and if, on examination, this is not found to be the case, they should be regularly fed once a day at least. There is no danger of fattening a young turkey on a good range in the first six months. With first-class stock, full feed will make a difference of four or five pounds in the weight of the birds at Thanksgiving. Turkeys like a variety of food, though they do very well upon corn, which they never refuse while in health.

They are very fond of a mash of boiled potatoes and Indian meal, and thrive admirably upon it.—Whatever the provender, it should be fed regularly, and the birds be kept thriving from the shell to the butcher's block.—*Poultry World*.