

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

QUEEN ON HER WEDDING TRIP.

HATCHED last July 4th at two o'clock. Came out and mated (or at least took her flight) on the 8th of July at two o'clock. Saw her come out of the entrance and at once took wing, with her head turned towards entrance, hovering only a few seconds in this way and off she went. I sat down to wait for the lady's return, and she kept me waiting for one hour and twenty minutes, when she marched in, but about ten minutes before her entering the bees made a rush out of the entrance up the hive and promenading around the alighting board with quite a different sound. There, I thought, now you are coming back, but she did not make her appearance. I imagined she was close by—the bees got quiet and about five minutes later the bees made the same movements and she came on the alighting board, but remained only a second and took flight again. I then took notice, and my mind was drawn at once to the picture given in the *A. B. C.* on page 183, which was perfectly correct, viz: "A virgin queen upon the wing." In a few minutes afterwards, the bees going through the same movements, she returned and marched in at once, but I could not take notice of any drone organs. I at once opened the hive and found her on second comb of capped brood at a stand still as if taking a rest. Every once in a while she would walk, then stand still again; putting her head in an empty cell, and now and then her abdomen. Acting like a laying queen, whether she was practising or for some other purpose I do not know, but I could not see any signs of drone organs. Only saw her several times discharge a watery fluid; then I saw her cutting her way out and emerging from her cell and was not more than one hour older or younger than four days; in three days more, or when she was a trifle over seven days old she began to lay both drone and worker eggs on the start, but soon settled down to worker eggs only and a No. 1 business; have seen five or six queens on their wedding tour, but did not give so close attention as to this one. Do not think I ever had any to mate or lay so soon as this.

F. MEHLENBACHER.

Fisherville, August 22nd, 1885.

We have known them to mate and lay sooner than seven days, especially in the case of very large fine queens. Small queens do not usually become fertile so soon, generally requiring one-half more time to become fertile. By close observation when the queens return you will be able to deter-

mine whether they are fertile or not, such, however, has been our experience, but after entering the hive, the bees sometimes remove the appendage before she has been long there.

PALESTINE OR HOLY LAND BEE.

TEXAS Bee-keepers make the Syrians their "pet" bee, according to the experience of those who have reason to know, but in California the Holy Lands are ahead, as evidenced by the following extract, by a correspondent in the *Rural Californian*:

"The honey season now closing has been on the whole one of disaster and discouragement to the bee-master in Southern California. From every quarter comes doleful accounts of failure of crop and loss of bees. Fires in the mountains destroying the bee pastures, and a meagre flow of nectar in the bloom that was not so destroyed, gives us less than half an average crop of honey for this year. But one thing has been demonstrated beyond a doubt, that is the good, I may say the superior, qualities of the Palestine bee. For breeding purposes it is far ahead of the Italian or any other sort. It perpetuates itself pure and unadulterated in the vicinity of other sorts of bees, because it breeds constantly, thus keeping in the apiary a good supply of pure drones and pure queens at all seasons of the year. The climate of this locality being almost identical with that of Palestine, this bee is not set back by dry, hot seasons as other sorts are. The Palestine bee has faith and hope marvelously developed; for, when the Italian and common bee are engaged in dragging out or destroying brood, because of a short allowance of honey being brought into the hive, the Palestine bee keeps right on at work, seems to double its diligence and industry, goes and comes quicker, and no doubt goes farther than before to secure the requisite amount of supplies to keep the colony prosperous."

An Irishman caught a bee after it had stung him, and examining it carefully, he said: "Ye dirty little blaggart! Ye z bin sittin' round till ye z worn the sate out of yer breeches, an' bedad oi've found yer knoife shticken through the hole in yer hip-pocket, yer little haythen!"

The Wabash County Bee-keepers' Convention will meet in G. A. R. Hall, No. 6, East Main st., North Manchester Ind., Oct. 19, 1885. All bee-keepers are earnestly requested to be present.

J. J. Martin, Sec