

in degree, when persevered in, even on the ordinary stock of any country. The stock of any country would rapidly increase in value every way, if ordinary breeders would keep constantly breeding from their best animals only. Attachment to animals bring with it another very important influence—the better provision and greater care for their progress and maturity. The Shorthorns of England enjoy this advantage in an eminent degree, the strongest attachment, as well as the most assiduous care, being co-existent in the thinly-populated and remote valleys of the North of England, from whence the pure Shorthorn dates its origin.

[NOTE BY ED. O. F.—The foregoing article finds its way to our columns through John Leeming, Esq., of Montreal, a personal friend of the writer, who having sent the ONTARIO FARMER to Mr. Gomersall during last year, lately received, along with a highly complimentary reference to this journal, the valuable contribution which precedes this note. We hope Mr. G. will continue the subject in future articles. It is a very large one, and one in regard to which he not only takes a lively interest, but is evidently quite at home. We cannot but wish that others who find pleasure and advantage in perusing these pages, would imitate the example of our Yorkshire contributor, and send us jottings of their observations and experiences in rural matters.]

#### WINTERING BEES.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER:

SIR,—As we are safely through the winter, some remarks in regard to wintering bees may not be out of place. The past season was, perhaps, the most unfavorable for bee keeping of any on record. Very few swarms came out before the first of July, and those a week later not more than half filled their hives with comb. Several of these weak swarms have been brought through by timely feeding, and kept in the driest possible manner—damp being the greatest evil bees have to encounter. Timely cleaning out of all droppings—and a hive so constructed that this can be done at all times—and the bees left in the open air to dry away all damp that will accumulate, and give them the full benefit of the winter sun, that great invigorator of all animal life, stimulating them to go out to discharge their secretment—a necessity quite overlooked by many bee-keepers. Many old and stupid bees will never return which, if confined in the hive, would fall to the bottom and die, to the great detriment of the inmates above. Keeping bees in the open air is a pleasure that those imprisoned in pits, cellars, lofts and all manner of places do not enjoy. Nothing but a damp, dreary

foul-aired place to pass the winter in, which is quite contrary to the habits of the bee in his natural home in the hollow tree, exposed to the most extreme colds.

I have had opportunities the past winter to examine bees in various conditions, and have found that those who winter their bees in cellars and pits require to give more skill and care than those leaving them on their summer stands. A little neglect in the way of ventilation is fatal. In one instance a so-called experienced bee-keeper lost his whole stock through a little neglect in not closing the ventilation on a change of weather. Others bring them out damp and mouldy and smeared, with faces inside out, many of them in such a weak and sickly state that they fall a ready prey to robbers. Bees kept in lofts or out-buildings fare worse than those on out-door stands, as they have no relief and are subjected to continual damp which accumulates around them and ill fits them to stand the cold. When the spring sun enlivens them they get uneasy and are removed to the stand, where they are exposed to a sudden change of temperature. If your bees are strong there is no difficulty in wintering out of doors, as the cold never kills bees when kept in a dry, airy place. If your stocks are weak keep them on their summer stands, where you can feed when required early and late. Have your hives so made as to open easily, so that you can take out the frames and pour the feed on the combs and replace. It is sometimes necessary to shift the frames so as to bring the honey within reach of the bees. If you find them very weak take a frame from a strong stock and wing off a quantity of the bees, which will strengthen and, perhaps, save the weak stock. A very simple bee-feeder is made with a perforated tin, formed into a cup, and settled into the hole in the honey-board, where the bees can be reached at any time. I have two stocks, hived on the 15th and 17th July, which are now doing well, being in a convenient hive where their wants can be attended to. Bee-keeping is both a pleasure and profit when rightly understood; but, now-a-days, there are so many systems that tend to make bee-keeping a mysterious and expensive operation that none but the wealthy can think of entering into the business. By the time we study up one improvement we have another novel arrangement to be looked into, and so on.

B. LOSEE.

Cobourg, April 15th, 1870.

[NOTE BY ED. O. F.—Some points in the above communication are open to question and may, perhaps, provoke a rejoinder from some of our bee-keeping readers,—possibly from the editorial pen, in a future number.]