

sand pounds, or two tons of surplus honey last year, besides doubling in number. G. H. Bowerman, of Bloomfield, Prince Edward County, who uses movable comb hives only, sold some 600 lbs. of surplus honey last fall, the product of a few stocks. A Mr. Brimmer of Hoosick, New York, sold 7,225 lbs. last fall, the product of one hundred and fifteen colonies, and nearly doubled his bees.

But J. M. says, "Formerly bees were kept for the sake of the honey they made." So they are now as the above facts will show. "And in the old fashioned straw hives" So they are now by some who do so, because their fathers did. "The bees were healthy and strong, and worked with a will to lay up their winter stock of food." So they do now and a large amount of surplus honey besides. "They were warm and comfortable in the cold season in their thick straw houses." So they are now in good double boarded hives; but a gentleman who lives in the township of Markham told me that two years ago he lost six stocks out of eight in straw hives during the cold season. "And when Spring came, sent out their swarms early in the season, often two or three from a hive." Wonderful! So they do now and double that number. "A farmer who started with half a dozen hives, would find himself with fifteen or twenty in autumn well filled with honey." So he does now. "To get that honey he destroyed the bees in some of the hives leaving a few of the strongest stocks to start with next season." Now he does not do so. Why? He has become an intelligent bee-keeper.

But says J. M., "we fancy we hear a bee-fancier exclaim, what a destruction and loss that would be?" Certainly to a bee-fancier it would be so, but to J. M. I presume it would not. For surely he who advocates consigning whole colonies yea, dozens of them, to a pit of fire and brimstone cannot fancy them much. "But then if you did not do so," says J. M. "you have to let them spend the winter in wasting what they worked to make in summer." Ah! I perceive, J. M. is a honey-fancier. The few pounds a colony would consume during the winter is a great "waste" with J. M., but the bees are of no account. They may be wasted without mercy. Does J. M. know that "bees make [gather] honey? If we are not to muzzle the mouth of the ox, why

should we that of the bee? But J. M. enquires, "Is there any more cruelty or loss in killing bees, than sheep or hogs?" Certainly; for hogs and sheep cannot be eaten unless you kill them, but bees cannot be eaten if you do kill them. If it is argued that we kill hogs and sheep for their flesh and bees for their honey, I reply that it is a sad mistake. For while we can get the most *flesh* by killing, we can get the most honey by keeping alive. Again, hogs and sheep must be fed during winter at our expense—bees labor and feed themselves.

But J. M.'s knowledge of bees is about as good as of hives. One would almost imagine he had just emerged from a straw stack, judging from the way he 'blows' a straw hive. Hear him! "How many patent hives there are now we don't profess to tell, but this we do say, that not one of them is yet equal to the old straw hive for warmth and cheapness, combined with usefulness." Is J. M. a bee-keeper? Has he fully tested the merits of *all* the patent hives as compared with straw hives? I trow not. Why then does he speak so positively? True, Quinby says, very strong stocks will winter better in straw hives, on their stands than in any other, yet Quinby advocates wintering in doors, and so they should be there it matters not what kind of hives they are in, so far as warmth is concerned. Not only so, but when Mr. Quinby wrote that he had not used a *double boarded* hive. Fortunately, too, I was at Mr. Quinby's two years ago, and saw the straw hives in which he wintered some strong colonies on their stands as an experiment, and they were so constructed that when Spring came he could remove the bees again into moveable comb board hives again. Quinby has now my double boarded hive, and is much pleased with it.

But finally, after all his loud talk about a straw hive J. M. comes to the conclusion that "a really good hive is yet a desideratum—one that will keep the bees warm in winter, and admit of the entire stock being transferred to another hive as soon as they have filled the one they are in." How is this J. M.? What has wrought such a sudden change in your mind? Has some old fashioned bee-keeper just stepped into your "sanctum" and told you that his bees are "stark and cold" in his "old straw hives?" Surely something must have happened. For a few mo-

ments ago you were saying that "the bees were warm and comfortable in the cold season, in their thick straw hives." Now you say, "a hive that will keep them warm in winter is yet a desideratum." The old straw hive that a few moments ago, "could no be equalled for warmth and cheapness, combined with usefulness," is now, "not a really good hive" after all. I am much pleased with J. M.'s sudden acquisition of knowledge. If he advanced so rapidly he may know something about bees and hives yet. I will therefore for his especial benefit, inform him that a really good hive can now be had; that my double-boarded movable comb hive is all that can be desired. There is no advantage that can be given the bee-keeper or the bee, that is not given by it. In fact it is just what J. M. desires, as it keeps the bees warm in winter, and admits of the entire stock being transferred to another hive as soon as they have filled the one they are in. Though no intelligent bee-keeper would do so foolish a thing, as ample provision is made for the bees to store all their surplus honey in boxes, which may be removed as soon as filled, without disturbing the bees or the honey laid up for their own wants. With it swarms may be made two weeks earlier than they would naturally swarm, securing stronger stocks and more surplus honey.

Now if J. M. is not satisfied that he knows little or nothing about bee culture, if he will give me a friendly call, I will endeavor to convince him that such is the case; and I venture to say, that having seen my bees, and tasted my honey, he will return home better satisfied to edit a paper than write on the science of bee culture.

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[We allow the above to appear in full, as we have not time to condense it. J. M. informs us he formerly edited the "Genessee Farmer." If he chooses to respond we will allow him space not to exceed half a column. Should he respond, we will allow the above writer the same space. We do not intend to make this a bee paper, still we will not neglect attention to that department by occasional remarks. We think the country has been supplied with quite enough on that subject. We would prefer information about seed wheat. We are asking for information about that important subject, but few replies come, although our paper is addressed to every Secretary of every Agricultural Society in the Dominion.]—Ed.