

ence, which has never since died out. Before he desisted from teaching, Mr. Corneil had obtained the highest certificate County Boards had the power to grant, viz., first class, grade A, permanent. It is still in force, so that if insurance fails, and bee-keeping goes to the dogs, he can resume that

"Delightful task to rear the tender thought,
And teach the young idea how to shoot."

Mr. Corneil has been successful in the insurance business, his receipts having averaged not less than \$1800 a year, but, as he latterly remarked to the writer of this sketch, "it has never stayed with me, and I suppose it never will now;" a condition of affairs in which he is by no means alone. He has been twice married. His first wife, a native of Edinburgh, died in 1858. He married again in 1859, his second wife being a daughter of the late Christopher Knowlson, of Omemee.

In 1875, Mr. Corneil bought his first stock of bees. It cost him \$10, as it stood in his garden ready for business. He did not then know a worker-bee from a drone, and had no idea of ever keeping more than three or four colonies—just to supply honey for his own table. He determined, however, to read up on bee-keeping in the winter, when he had more time. He got "Langstroth on the Honey Bee," and "Quinby's mysteries of bee-keeping explained;" those old-time standard books, to which many of us owe so much. He also read the writings of Mr. Quinby in the *American Agriculturist*, getting the back numbers for the purpose of tracing up every item of apicultural information. He was thus peculiarly a disciple of Quinby's, and naturally contracted a preference for the closed-end frame which was used by the great New York apiarist. After reading up on this fascinating pursuit, Mr. Corneil could not be satisfied without having the latest improvements. This meant outlay of money, and to recoup this expenditure, he bought more hives, and went more extensively into bee-keeping. Thus, from less to more, he got into it as a business. When he left home to attend the Colonial and Indian Exhibition a year ago last summer, he had 212 stocks of bees. In preparing them for winter, they were doubled down to 180 to avoid sugar feeding, and make the apiary self-supporting. They were packed and prepared for winter as usual, but unfortunately, the bees had gathered a large quantity of honey-dew. About half-a-dozen stocks which were given sealed comb, filled early in the season, were clean, bright, and strong; but wherever there was a considerable store of honey-dew, the bees were either sick or dead. On the first of June of the present year, 122 colonies out of 180 had

succumbed. Nothing daunted, however, Mr. Corneil went vigorously to work to repair his losses, and, though the past season has been an exceptionally unfavorable one, he has 105 colonies in winter quarters; 64 packed on their summer stands, and 41 housed in the cellar. Mr. Corneil is now an authority on honey-dew, and strongly advises extracting it from the combs, and feeding sugar to take its place.

The subject of this sketch is one of our foremost Canadian apiarists, and in the scientific branches of bee-keeping is probably "the noblest Roman of them all." He is a careful experimenter, a patient investigator, and arrives at his conclusions logically. He wields the pen of a ready writer, and his articles are always interesting, instructive, and to the point. He has filled the highest offices among Ontario beekeepers, having been President of the Association in 1884, and one of the four commissioners to England in 1886. In the last named capacity he rendered invaluable service as book-keeper and accountant, performing a lot of hard work, at late hours, in keeping the cash balance up to the mark.

At the present time Mr. Corneil is experimenting with a straw hive which he hopes will prove "just the thing" for out-door wintering in this climate. It is a model of neat workmanship, thanks to the mechanical ingenuity of his son, whom the writer watched one day last winter, dexterously weaving in the layers of straw, and making a very compact, nice job of it. This hive is designed so as to have the sheets of comb built transversely and converging to the centre where it is meant to secure a vacant space large enough to admit of the bees forming one solid cluster, instead of being in *strata* between combs. It is believed that, on this plan, bees will hibernate more perfectly, and winter better, than on any other at present in use.

Mr. Corneil has never aspired to municipal or political distinction. But before the change from the Local Superintendency to County Inspection, he was Local Superintendent of Public Schools in Ops for several years. He is now, and has been for the past nine years, a prominent member of the Lindsay Board of Education.

W. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Ont.

For the Canadian Bee Journal

Bees, Sheep and Alsike Clover.

DULY appreciating Brother Shaw's "ideal combination" and lest his remarks might pass unnoted, I would like, as a brother bee-man (and Canadian also), though in Uncle Sam's domain, to attest to the truth of his