

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

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The Sunny South.

AN INVITING FIELD FOR NORTHERN ENTERPRISE.

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Only those who have experienced that thrill of joy which takes possession of the devoted apiarist when, after many months of enforced separation from his beloved pets, and tedious days and weeks of care and anxiety for their welfare in this fair frozen land of ours, as he beholds the first bee of spring returning to her hive beneath the genial smile of an April sun with her first load of pollen, can realize the extreme joy and satisfaction which I felt upon liberating ten nuclei colonies at La Gloria, Cuba, on October 28th, 1886, and saw the first pollen-laden worker return to her hive. What a pleasure to think that no "chill October" winds, no November sleet and hail, no December frost and ice, no January blizzard or frozen February clouds, no blustering March will ever cast their gloomy shadows across their sunlit paths. What pleasure to see the little golden army marching to the alighting board and soar into the air, mingling their merry hum with the fragrance of the almost endless variety of flowers, fruit and spice trees, and know that henceforth perpetual summer is to be their lot.

Unobstructed by the blasts of winter, the glad hum goes merrily on where the mocking bird proclaims her joy, and the soft rustle of the palms, stirred by the gentle mountain breeze, seem to rise in gratitude to God for this their home, a land of never ending springtime.

While here, in the North, the beekeeper is spending a half of his life in anxious waiting, with his bees packed away in sawdust and idleness, more than one million five hundred thousand square miles of floral clad hill and valleys are yielding up their wealth of precious nectar to the winds.

Pause a moment and think of this vast tropical honey-producing area, including Cuba, St. Domingo, Puerto Rico, Mexico and the several Republics of Central

America, the greater portion of which is better adapted to the successful culture of the honey bee than the choicest locations of Michigan or New York.

It would seem that "fame and fortune," almost without limit, await the energetic Northerner possessing the five requisite factors,—capital, patience, a thorough knowledge of apiculture, and the requirements of that latitude, and an earnest determination to meet those requirements. With this stock in trade, success is inevitable.

Though decidedly primitive in their habits and modes of living, generally, I found the natives intelligent and very willing to abandon their antediluvian systems of beekeeping and adopt more modern appliances, when the advantages of the step were practically illustrated to them.

By placing a small model of a honey extractor, designed for use in extracting the honey from the combs out from the native colmena, upon exhibition in a large buying house, together with a sample of honey extracted by the new method along with a fair sample of the common native product, I had many and frequent calls from native beekeepers; and, as a result, orders for thirty machines were taken in about two weeks' time, and numerous applications for supplies in general, especially hives, sections, smokers and advice. Some actually volunteered their services in exchange for instruction.

The introduction of a general line of modern appliances adapted to the requirements of the country could not fail to develop an immense and lucrative business; though I know of no opening in this vast area of the undeveloped South, along the line of apiculture, which offers such an opportunity for a large and remunerative business as does the production of beeswax in old Mexico, where all the churches and great cathedrals of the Republic are illuminated with this product of the "little busy bee," and the demand is far in excess of the supply.

With the advantages of a mild climate, an inexpensive adobe or mud hive, a