

different races of bees as none but Syrians are kept in Syria. The writer, however, and a member formerly in my employ in Cyprus testified to the superiority of the Cyprians over the Syrians. No other members had had any experience with Cyprians. Altogether a bee-convention in Syria may be considered an interesting and important event—interesting to the outside world as showing the progress already made here and that America has been taken as the model; important to the country itself both because it is likely to spread greater interest in an industry which can be made to contribute much more than heretofore to the welfare of Syria, and because the proceedings are likely to induce a more systematic development of the industry in the east. The convention adjourned to a photographer's and the migratory shadows were committed to paper. As far as means will permit copies of the same will be sent to the bee-journals. Friend Root, of *Gleanings* will surely take kindly to our President who appears in the centre of the group with his hand resting on the A.B.C. book. French bee-keepers will not be ashamed of their countryman, Mr. Phillip Baldensperger, whose large honey-yields in Palestine have attracted attention, but have unfortunately been attributed to German methods and even to German bee-keepers by parties who knew better.* Messrs. Dennler & Zwilling, of Alsace-Lorraine, will recognize in his hand a copy of their journal. It so happens that this disciple of American bee-culture is flanked by Americans, for your humble servant to whom the penning of the chronicles seem by common consent to have been left, stands at his other hand. The little block of wood with three holes in it and the reversible frame with no attachments or projecting corners will be recognized by some anyway. A man of Italian origin stands at my left; he never owned any bees but was in my employ some time—in fact I might say he has been my *left hand man* for two or three years past. Still further to the left a Syrian school master, owner of ten hives, holds in his hand a copy of the *British Bee Journal*, yet, though he knows English and French he is not a subscriber to, nor a reader of any bee-journal, nor has he ever owned or read a book on bees. Perhaps this Syrian friend prefers the name and not the thing. In front of him is a Syrian merchant, a former landlord of mine. The good-looking, full-bearded man who stands at the left represents the sturdy German race, and says he is "strongly interested in bees."

* See Howard's and Alley's reports in *Gleanings* and the *American Bee Journal*, also see editorial notes in the *Bienenzeitung* of Alsace, Lorraine.—F. B.

Next to him is a peasant friend with his daughter. The latter who holds an earthen jar such as the peasants employ as hives, has had much to do with recent work in bee-culture here, for, on a tray placed on her head she has brought down from distant villages of Mount Lebanon, in twos, many of the stocks of bees that have furnished the queens for customers in far-off Europe and America. The juveniles are represented by two rising bee-keepers, one of whom has evidently adopted the smoker, while the other has "sat down" on the native cylinder hive. Our eyes are turned toward America for light in bee-keeping matters, and if the world hears of large reports from these shores of the Mediterranean, the credit of them will, it is to be hoped, go where it belongs.

FRANK BENTON.

Mt. Lebanon, Beyrout, Syria, May, 1885.

The photograph has come to hand and is very interesting. We are sorry that we cannot have it engraved and present each reader of the JOURNAL with the picture. The cost of engraving would be about \$40, and we feel that we can spend the same amount of money to perhaps better advantage in producing other engravings, relating to late inventions in the bee-keeping world. Friend Benton's picture would be of special interest, and we will probably reproduce it before long.

UNUSUAL SWARMS.

I HAVE had two hives of bees swarm thirty hours after removing all queen cells, leaving a number of queen cells just started, some with eggs in. One was a weak colony in the Spring, the other was a first swarm this year,—first swarms of both. Was of the opinion bees would not swarm until the queen cell was capped over.

WM. THURSTON.

Bobcaygeon, Ont.

There are no laws that can be laid down that the bees will not break some times. Ordinarily they do not swarm until the queen cell is capped, or just about capped. It is quite likely that the bees would have swarmed had you not torn down the cells, and as they had the swarming impulse and had decided to swarm, the tearing down of the queen