

"Still keep a secret in your breast
Ye never tell to any."

For several years at these conventions he had tried to get Mr. Hall to explain how he gets such large crops of splendid comb honey, but he had never done it.

Mr. Hall : " I should have to make the man. "

Mr. Clarke : " Well, here he is ; take the raw material and make the man. That's just what I want. "

Much amusement and bantering of Messrs. Doolittle and Hall to explain the *how*, but the wily veterans did not come to the scratch.

Amid much laughter the subject was laid on the table, and the next order of the day taken up, viz : an essay by Mr. C. P. Dadant, on

EXTRACTED HONEY.

Nothing is more appetizing than a pretty section of white comb honey. But comb honey will always be a fancy article and will have to sell much higher than extracted honey in order to pay the bee-keeper that produces it. The aim of bee-culture in its present progressive condition is to produce honey for the masses, for the laborers, who cannot afford to pay for it any more than they can pay for the average grades of sugar.

Besides, comb honey, although it is a ready selling article, will not fill the place of the liquid honey in a great many circumstances ; to make pastry or cakes, or to use in teas, in case of sickness. It is therefore an evident fact that the sale of comb honey will always be limited, and that the sale of extracted honey will increase in proportion to its production, provided the bee-keeper will take pains to introduce the use of it among his neighbors. This we have ascertained personally by our own sales. In 1868 our sales of extracted honey of about 500 lbs. were difficult and slow. Now, our crops of 10 to 35,000 lbs. are easily disposed of, and although the prices are lower than formerly, yet we find the raising of it to be a remunerative business. We sell more honey to-day in our little town of 1500 inhabitants than we could sell 20 years ago in the city of St. Louis.

We consider the raising of extracted honey, exclusively, as of much advantage to bee-keepers for a number of reasons. In the first place the apiarist who aims to raise honey only for his own use can raise much more of this honey than of comb.

2nd. The outlay of combs, crates, and boxes is not an oft repeated expenditure, since when once supplied the stock remains.

3rd. The bees need much less watching. The almost total prevention of swarming by the raising of extracted honey is no longer a matter

of doubt. For this purpose, it is only necessary to provide the colonies with a large quantity of empty combs ahead of their needs. These combs are not wasted, but are preserved from year to year.

4th. By the production of extracted honey, exclusively, an apiarist can take care of more than four times as many colonies, as he can by the production of comb honey, thereby enlarging his profits greatly, even if he has to sell the extracted honey much cheaper than comb honey.

It would be a great mistake to imagine, as some have asserted, that there is already an over-production of honey. Honey of all grades, is really only getting to be a staple. We do not have to look back many years to the time when its sale was so insignificant that it was only *occasionally* quoted in the market reports of the large dailies. When honey is found as often as sugar, or as molasses, or as butter on the tables of the average farmer and of the average laborer, when it is found by the barrel or by the keg in our wholesale and retail groceries, then and only then can we say that we are producing as much honey as the country can use.

The "revolution in bee-keeping" of which father Langstroth speaks in his book, has taken place, but the bee-keeping fraternity is only beginning to find out all the advantages and all the growths which the bee-business must derive from this revolution.

Dr. Mason described his method of getting extracted honey, but complained that he could not get more than 65 pounds per colony. He was asked how many combs he used, and replied, "eight."

Mr. C. F. Muth could not comprehend how the Doctor could manage with so few frames. He wanted at least 10 frames for the brood-nest, and then another story for extracting. Even his bees, kept on the house-top in the city of Cincinnati, had given him averages double and even treble what Dr. Mason had obtained, and from hives in the country where they had not so far to fly, he got far more honey.

Mr. W. E. Clark said that the President had been the most successful producer of extracted honey in the East, and he would call on him to explain his methods.

Pres. Root, in response, said that it was perfectly true, as Mr. Clark had said, that Mr. Doolittle's requisites for producing comb honey were just as applicable to the production of extracted honey. A good queen, for example, was just as necessary for the one as the other. In both cases wise manipulation was needed, and it took a large amount of study to know what is wise manipulation. Certainly we must have large