

Italian bees are as much disposed to rob as the black, if not more so; but the assertion that they cannot be kept near stocks of black bees, without robbing them of their stores, is erroneous. Mr. Quimby, who has had excellent opportunities for testing this point, has said enough to convince any unprejudiced bee-keeper that they may be safely kept in close proximity to common bees, and my own experience perfectly agrees with his.

3. *The Italian bees will work upon the second crop of red clover.*

Three years ago I had 12 swarms of black bees early in June, to three of which I gave Italian queens. The hives were tolerably well filled with combs by the black bees, but before the young Italians began to gather stores, the honey harvest was nearly over. In August the state of my health prevented me from making any observations, but a member of my family noticed that while the three colonies with Italian queens were working vigorously, the other nine were doing very little. In September I found that the Italians had their winter's supply, while the best of the others had only a few pounds of honey, the season proving one of the worst that I ever knew. The black colonies were broken up, and the bees added to other stocks, while the Italians wintered in good condition. I am now satisfied that the Italians obtained their August stores from the second crop of red clover. Last August I noticed the Italians working vigorously on the red clover, and saw very few black bees upon it. Mr. E. W. Taylor, of Hulmeville, Bucks Co., Pa., who has been so successful in rearing these bees, wrote me last summer, that his bees were filling boxes and frames with honey gathered from red clover, while the black bees in his vicinity were doing nothing. Other persons have written to me to the same effect,

In regions where buckwheat is not much cultivated, and where fall forage is scarce, this peculiarity of the Italian bees will in some seasons make the difference between a handsome profit and a severe loss in bee-keeping.

While it is true that some foreign writers have asserted that these bees will work upon the red clover, I have not met with any statement that they scarcely notice the *first* crop, but confine their operations almost wholly to the *second* crop, or seed clover, which blossoms when the white clover has passed out of bloom, or yields little, if any honey.

I will state, as a matter of interest to bee-keepers, that the three Italian colonies before mentioned produced me the second season 350 pounds of honey, and one large swarm.

L. L. LANGSTROTH.

Oxford, Butler Co., O., May 29, 1863.

Horticulture.

TORONTO GARDENERS' IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.

The regular Monthly Meeting of this Society took place on the 17th ult.

Present—Messrs. J. Fleming, S. Ashby, E. Townsend, C. W. Lawton, G. Vair, G. Tattle, S. Turner, C. Young, G. Leslie, A. Pontig, B. Love, H. Defries, and J. Forsyth.

Mr. S. Ashby in the Chair.

Mr. Fleming exhibited cut flowers of an excellent variety of Gladioli, a very showy plant at this season of the year, likewise some Fuchsias and Asters which were very fine, also a Verbena that he imported last season, named Foxhunter, which promises to eclipse any of the varieties yet out, a distinct scarlet of strong habit and a free bloomer, in short all the properties of a first-class verbena.

Mr. J. Turner also exhibited a few very fine flowers, amongst others an excellent collection of Liliputian Dahlias, which he seems to excel in growing to perfection.

The subjects discussed were the culture of Orchard House Fruits, and the successful growing of the Dahlia. On the former subject Mr. G. Vair read the subjoining paper, and was followed by others in an equally instructive style, eliciting many practical and useful suggestions.

On the culture of the Dahlia, Mr. Turner gave an outline of his mode of treatment for the season. In raising his young stock—if roots were plentiful—he would prefer plants obtained from dividing the roots to struck cuttings, as he thought they would be found to grow stronger and bloom earlier and freer than from cuttings. The time of planting out would be from the middle of May to the first of June, much would depend upon the season and forward state of the plants.

The soil best suited to the Dahlia he believed to be a moderately rich sandy loam not too retentive of moisture, the situation partially shaded from the mid day sun and sheltered if possible from high winds.

When the tops are destroyed by the early frosts in the autumn he would cut them down, not too close to the roots, which may be allowed to remain and ripen well in the ground as long as the weather will permit, choosing a fine day before severe weather comes on to take them up, allowing them to dry in the sun, and then stow them away for the winter. An open shelf under the stage of a greenhouse, or a dry airy cellar where the frost can be kept out will suit the purpose well. After some farther remarks by other members of the society the meeting adjourned.

J. FORSYTH, Sec.