

FOR THE CANADIAN POULTRY JOURNAL.

Douce Halvers.

THE editor of the C. B. J. is evidently no Scotchman, or the son of a Scotchman. In my manuscript I christened my notes in the last issue "douce haivers," which in broad Scotch means *serious gossip*, but "ye editor" left the suspicious looking bogey out. Now, I strongly suspect that brother Jones is either a Dutchman or the son of a Dutchman, and thought to himself—"What the *deuce* is *douce haivers* anyway?" He probably concluded that it had some occult connection with the *deuce* or "the old boy," or whatever you like to call that gentleman with the forked tail, whom the Privy Council of England made such short work of a few years ago in the celebrated "Jenkins case." I assure brother Jones that this *douce* has nothing to do with that other *deuce*, and will never trouble him I hope any more than the other dead one.

THE WEATHER AND THE BEES.

We may soon follow the fashion of the English apiarian journalists. They are all the time writing about the weather—the weather—in every issue. The reason probably is that they have a great deal of weather over there—much more than we have here. The weather is all the time doing something over there, and never stays done. Here it does less, and stays done longer. This is the 27th of April. Bees still in cellar except 35 colonies. Since 7th inst. it has been cold, raw and windy—most of the time freezing more or less nearly every night. Winter is literally "lingering in the lap of spring." Under such circumstances the bees are better in than out. I have seen no natural pollen carried in yet till to day. If I remember aright, some of the beekeepers at the House Committee in Toronto on the 5th inst. told me that their bees in the west there had been carrying in pollen previous to that date. There is evidently quite a difference in climate between the Eastern part of Ontario and the West, especially the Niagara peninsula. It strikes me that the wintering problem is a bigger one here than there. It requires more skill and care to get the bees through—especially through the Spring—with us than with you. Were it otherwise we would not find those friends in the west so ready to set themselves down on indoor wintering and those who practice it. It is just possible they might come out of the little end of the horn down here in their outdoor wintering. However, we can winter outside successfully, but much prefer inside. The Spring is the most critical time for bees wintered inside, which is not always the case with those wintered

outside. If quiet and free from disease they are better in, till natural pollen appears, and even longer if the weather is not settled to warm. I have had bees in the cellar until the middle of May which did as well if not better than those put out a month earlier the same season. I would not, however, care to take bees out of the cellar, the middle of May, which had been wintered on syrup without pollen *a la* Heddon, and try to get them ready for the clover flow. When left in so late they must have stored pollen for brooding, and a saturated sponge at entrance will supply them with water.

THAT "NAMELESS DISEASE."

I do not mean the bee paralysis, quite common of late years, which causes the bees to flounder about and hubble around in front of the hives until they die; but I mean that "sugar-honey" disease which is just now afflicting some of our American brethren of the quill, causing them to do an amount of moral hobbling and logical floundering which may not exactly lead them to death, like the prior bees, but if persisted in will undoubtedly lead them to grief. And the trouble is, such people necessarily bring others of the same craft to grief with them. Our American cousins have the reputation of being enterprising, and they have honestly earned it. They are constitutionally go-ahead a tive, all of which is commendable enough in its way in this age of lightning progress. But there is such a thing as going too fast in some directions, and too slow in others. That Mr. Hasty has a right to discuss, that or any other question in decent language, is beyond doubt; that the "Review" and all the others have the same right goes without saying. But it is not always prudent to exercise a natural right. All things that are lawful are not expedient. While I would not condemn anyone, for discussing the question, much less abuse him, my own opinion is that it might better have been allowed to rest. We are carrying load enough. We already have enough ignorance, prejudice, misrepresentation and falsehood to contend with. We are told that the truth ought never to be suppressed. That is true. But simply omitting to tell all the truth you know under certain circumstances is not suppressing the truth. It is no man's duty to either speak or write all the truth he knows. I could stir up strife, hostility, enmity and any amount of evil in a very short time by speaking and writing nothing but the truth. By doing so I would prove my own folly and lack of judgment. But I deny that the bottom idea of this sugar-honey theory is true. Before ever the bee gathers the nectar from the clover the