

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

### I "RISE AND EXPLAIN."

**A**N anonymous correspondent of the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL having called on me to "rise and explain" certain mysterious matters, and the editor himself having joined in this request, I should seem either very deaf, or very impolite, perhaps both, were I to keep silence. I think I recognise the correspondent through the thin disguise he has assumed for the nonce, and until now I have regarded him as a truthful and guileless man. But my veiled friend has laid himself open to the grave suspicion of not being better than other people. He says he is "seeking light." Now, is that fact or pretence? Is he not just as well "posted" as I or anybody else "anent" the identity of this "Canadian bee paper?" Well, if he is not in reality "seeking light," what is he "seeking?" Either to "pick a quarrel" with me, or to have a bit of fun at my expense. If I am right in my guess who the correspondent is, I feel sure he does not want to "pick a quarrel" with me or anybody else. His jolly, rubicund face is guarantee enough that he is not a mischief-maker and I have no doubt his pen spluttered ink all over the paper through the laughter that shook his hand and nearly split his sides as he wrote. Well I do like to see people enjoy themselves and have a little innocent fun occasionally, even if I am the butt of it. To be serious, I suppose, explanation is wanted from me on two points: "1st, my use of the phrase, 'the Canadian bee paper,' and 2nd, my connection with the *American Bee Journal*."

As to the 1st point, it is the will of the proprietor of the *A. B. J.* that the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL shall be thus alluded to in the columns of his "bee paper." Rightly or wrongly, he considers the name "Bee Journal," without the qualifying adjective, his seclusive property, and urges, with some show of reason, that his "paper" is often, if not usually, so styled, "for short." I shall not go into the merits of the question further than to say that if I had been starting a "bee paper" in this country, I should have been very apt to have chosen the name that Friend Jones hit upon, and I should have done it without thought of injuring my neighbor, or trespassing on his right.

2nd, My connection with the *American Bee Journal*. Both correspondent and editor are quite right on this point. I have been associated with the *A. B. J.* more or less intimately for the past thirteen years. A few facts in regard to this connection, may interest, if not surprise, some Canadian bee-keepers, possibly the correspondent who is "seeking light" or something

else. In December, 1872, being then President of the North American Bee-Keepers Association, I received a requisition signed by eighteen leading members of that body, asking me to assume charge of the *American Bee Journal*. Its founder, the lamented Samuel Wagner, had recently died. There was a great wish to have the *A. B. J.* removed from Washington, where it was first published, to Chicago. This task I undertook and accomplished. I retained both business and editorial management of the *A. B. J.* until the end of 1873, when Mr. Thos. G. Newman became its proprietor, I, on my part, engaging to continue editor for two years longer. Since the expiration of that time, I have maintained a connection of some kind with the *A. B. J.* and have written for it, as other duties and circumstances permitted. I cannot but feel an interest in a periodical with which I have sustained relations, more or less intimate, so long. The active part I took in the early history of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association made me acquainted with many distinguished apiarists across the border, so that writing for and reading the *A. B. J.* have appeared almost like corresponding with personal friends. I expect to be the *A. B. J.*'s contributor or "own correspondent" as long as I live and keep bees, unless Mr. Newman and I should quarrel; which we are hardly likely to do after working together pleasantly for so many years. But whatever my relations with the *A. B. J.* may be, I am ready, as I have been in the past, to do all in my power to promote the interests of apiculture in "this Canada of ours."

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Oct. 27th, 1885.

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### VISION OF THE HONEY BEE.

**T**HE current number (November) of that excellent magazine the *Popular Science Monthly* contains the following in the department of the "Popular Miscellany":

"According to the Rev. J. L. Zabriskie's observations, the honey-bee sees as through the woods. The ocelli are situated on the top of the head, arranged as in an equilateral triangle, so that one is directed to the front, one to the right, and one to the left. 'Long, branching hairs on the crown of the head stand thick, like a miniature forest, so that an ocellus is scarcely discernible except from a particular point of view;' and then the observer remarks an opening through the hairs—a cleared pathway, as it were, in such a forest—and notes that the ocellus looking like a glittering globe half immersed in the substance of the head, lies at the inner end of