

mar the intended effect of the article. I regret that my postscript was not in time to explain that what I wrote was quite independent of Mr. Pringle's last communication, and in ignorance of his having referred the matters in dispute to me.

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, 11th June, 1886.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

MORE LAST WORDS ON THE PRINGLE-THOM DIFFICULTY.

I WAS quite disappointed on opening this week's C. B. J. to find that my P. S. and corrections of *Errata* on the above subject had failed to appear. Knowing however, that Mr. Macpherson was away on the praise-worthy business of getting married, and that such an event within the precincts of a printing office, knocks things into a *pi* generally, I merely heaved a sigh, and said to myself, "such is life."

The same mail that brought me this week's C. B. J. brought a letter from Mr. Pringle in which he says, "I do not think you have quite done me justice, though I don't doubt for a moment, that you honestly tried to do so." But for those unfortunate *Errata*, I think friend Pringle would have been more nearly satisfied, perhaps completely so; and, if I had a similar expression from Dr. Thom, I should think I had succeeded pretty well in my peace-making endeavors.

Mr. Pringle says further "I think you tried to do the impartial thing between two friends. There is you know, what is called in legal *par-lance*, the "unconscious bias" from which even the judge on the bench is unable to free himself; and to the extent that it is *unconscious*, is it inculpable." I think that is well put and wisely said. No doubt there is an "unconscious bias." I admit it on my part. Being a religionist, I lean without being aware of it, toward one of my own way of thinking. Friend Pringle must also own up to the same influence, and perhaps, making due allowance for this in ourselves and others, the best thing we can do is to shake hands all round, and "cry quits."

WM. F. CLARKE.

Guelph, Ont., June 17th, 1886.

SWARM ON MAY 4TH.

C. HUMPHREY.—My bees came out of their repository in good condition. I found two queenless. I notice some one in the C. B. J. crowing about early swarms, but I can beat them all hollow. My first swarm came out May 4th; there were two capped queen cells in the parent colony. However it was caused by removing them from one part of the town to another, excepting one colony. The bees that returned went into it and filled a double-story hive and then swarmed as above.

Wallaceburg, Ont., June 3rd, 1886.

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

CLIPPING QUEEN'S WINGS.

A TOPIC of interest at present should be that of clipping vs. non clipping queen's wings.

We find some of our best bee-keepers clipping and advocating such. It must, however, be remembered that circumstances alter cases, and the case before us is such. I find that beginners and men not well versed in the natural history of the bee get hold of this clipping idea and make some grievous mistakes. Within the last two weeks I have come across two cases where the wing has been clipped on a virgin queen, thus making her far worse than useless. Then again it is necessary that the apiarist should be at hand as the swarm is coming off if the queen's wings are clipped as she may, yes probably will, be lost in attempting to follow the swarm. The specialist can, of course, and should be, always on hand and can quickly detect the queen, the novice cannot so readily detect the queen, nor can he always be on hand to see the swarm come off although he may live it afterwards. Then again the bees do not always, especially if the weather is unfavorable, return to the old home, but I have had them drop all over the yard or attempt to enter hive after hive along a row in the apiary with heavy losses to themselves. The skilled apiarist can, of course, do many things the novice cannot profitably practice and in recommending any system, they should carefully place themselves in the novices' place, or let such readers distinctly understand the difficulties they would have to contend with would be strangers to the expert. In my estimation a bee journal should during this season devote a fair proportion of its space to the beginner and let the journal bring from week to week matter which may be of help and interest in points which may crop up from day to day "just what we wanted to know about" let such say. Deeper questions and such as can be discussed at any time could well be "pigeon holed" for a short time.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford.

Of course we want just the practical things of value at the proper season. We would have had more in before were it not for crowding out, but crowding out or not we intend to give more during the working season.

R. KNECHTEL.—Please compare the wintering and "springing" qualities of the Syrian and Italian bees.

The Syrian bees appear to winter fully as well as the Italian, but we have a strain got by crossing them which we prefer to either.