

reason stated, carefully avoided intrusion into matters too directly personal, we cannot resist the desire to raise a corner of the curtain Mr. Cowan elects to place between his journalistic duties and his labors in other directions, just to say—to those who know him only in the former capacity—that hard and continuous work in the cause of charity, religion, temperance, education; in fact philanthropic effort of all kinds, occupy by far the greater portion of a very busy life while in this country. Indeed, he regularly overtaxes his strength in this way when occupying his London residence, and after getting “run down” in consequence, as regularly has to go abroad in order to secure the rest and change which impaired health demands. In this way it is his delight to occupy himself in such journeys as he aptly described under the title of “Bee Rambles in Savoy” a year or two ago in the pages of this journal. Had we been free to write of Mr. Cowan as our impulse dictates, these lines would probably have taken a different form, but realising the whole position, we feel that enough has been said if we would avoid even the resemblance of want of consideration or possible cause of offence—however small—to one whose regard we esteem so highly.—Junior Editor, British Bee Journal.

[Mr. and Mrs. Cowan are now in California. Would it not be well if our Ontario or other societies would make an effort to have them attend some of our conventions. The members of the Brant, Oxford, Norfolk, and Haldimand, I am sure would be pleased to have a Union meeting for the occasion. Let something be done at once. I believe Mr. and Mrs. Cowan will return to England this summer Mr. Cowan is a gentleman whose wide range of knowledge on apicultural subjects, his travels in different parts of Europe, Africa and America would enable him to give us a great deal of interesting and useful information. Mr. Cowan is known to many of us as the author of that beautiful work “The Honey Bee,” a scientific work of great interest and value. What do bee-keepers say? Let us act at once.—ED.]

Bee-Keeping as a Business.

C. C. MILLER.

On page 180, C. H. Dibbern uses a number of interrogation points, among other things, asking if I ever knew “a farmer who did not get all he could for his honey?” I don’t know that I did, and what’s more, I’m not sure that I ever knew anything about what farmers got for their honey, if, indeed, I ever knew a case where a farmer offered honey for sale. Please, Bro. Dibbern, that was no original proposition of mine, but a tradition handed down by a long line, perhaps more properly a thick line, of witnesses. But as I understand the tradition, it doesn’t matter a bawbee if it should be fully established that every farmer from Cain down, always got the last cent he could for his honey. The point is that his honey isn’t worth a price proper for a good article, but there is such a general feeling that honey is honey, that when a farmer sells a dirty mess at five cents, that does does a great deal towards establishing five cents as a proper price for everything that comes under the name of honey. Now mind you, I don’t say that’s true, I am only trying to instruct you in the tradition. I never had any practical experience in the matter.

You ask whether we are not a little narrow when we preach that only specialists should keep bees. I’ll answer that question with “yes,” if you’ll change that “we” into the “they.” For I’m not preaching that doctrine, neither are you. In fact, if I remember rightly, I advocated the idea that whatever would be the greatest good for the greatest number would be the desirable thing to establish, and that probably it might be best for every farmer to be sufficiently informed to keep bees.

Now I’ve mentioned some of the things that I haven’t said, and it may be well perhaps for me to refer to what I have said to which exception has been taken. I believe a man has the same right to keep bees that he has to keep hogs or hens or to raise wheat. But I don’t believe that I have a right to raise wheat on Bro. Dibbern’s land without his permission. Not a whit more do I believe I have a right without his permission to plant an apiary of a hundred colonies within ten rods of him, no matter on whose land it is, when he already has there an apiary that fully stocks the field. If I do, I damage his