

Soon after, at about the age of fifteen, he took a situation as teacher, and there ended his own school education with the exception of subsequently attending one or two terms at a High School. For several years the winters were spent teaching the "young idea how to shoot" in some of the most difficult schools to manage in the county and with great success; while the summers were mostly spent on the farm and amongst the bees which, under skilful management, had increased from the original old box hive to over half a hundred prosperous colonies. As the somewhat precocious youth had readily learned all the country pedagogues could teach him at school so he soon acquired all the bee learning the old wisecracks of the neighbourhood possessed. Not content, however, with this and learning that a great book had been published on bees he sent for it and got it in due course by mail. It was Quinby's "Mysteries of Bee-Keeping Explained." From this he got new hints and much valuable information and his enthusiasm for bees and bee-keeping began to develop into a passion. He handled his bees, observed them, studied them and fairly loved them. Being a natural investigator he kept well abreast, if not ahead of the times in the science and art of apiculture. He used a movable frame hive, an old fashioned extractor and got the nearest blacksmith to make him an uncapping knife out of an old file, which he still uses and which has shaved the caps off many thousands of pounds of honey. During the first years when using the box hive a bee-house for wintering above ground was built, filled in with sawdust, into which the bees were put about the first of December each hive turned upside down ("standing on their head") where they wintered very well with little loss. But old methods were rapidly abandoned for better and the bee-house also as not coming up to the mark. In the fall of 1868 Mr. P. met J. H. Thomas, the Canadian bee-keeper, then of Brooklin, Ont., at Toronto, and being satisfied he could improve the Thomas hive so that it would just about fill the bill, he bought out the patent rights of the hive for Lennox and Addington, together with some 30 to 40 of the hives, "single" and "double walled" taking his valuable

gold watch and chain out of his pocket and handing them over to Mr. Thomas as payment. He went home with the deed in his pocket and the hives soon followed him over the Grand Trunk. The bee-keepers of the two counties went to him for hives and rights. Bee-keeping thereabouts got a decided impetus, while Mr. P. was fully recouped for his outlay. He improved the Thomas hive squaring off the frames and hive at the bottom, substituting metal bearings for the wooden gains and with some other changes made a first class hive of it which he still uses in his apiary along with something less than a dozen other styles. Through a strong love for bees and a natural adaptation to the handling and management of them, supplemented by a long experience Mr. P. has become one of the most complete and skilful bee-keepers in America and is looked to as an authority on bee-culture by all who know him. Nor is there any selfishness here for he freely communicates the fruit of his knowledge and experience to all who seek it. More than one young bee-keeper in his own locality has he helped on to a very promising success although the prospect of early competition from them in the business was apparent. He sells the most of his honey in the home market—having regular customers, increasing in number from year to year, whom he keeps, amidst competition, by honest and honorable dealing. His honey being of best quality, tastefully put up, always takes the first prizes at the Lennox Agricultural Exhibitions. Mr. P. is a great worker. There is probably no bee-keeper in Canada who gets through with as much. He manages his whole apiary, of over 100 colonies, alone, doing all the work, puts up and markets his own honey, besides running a small farm for honey—sowing Alsike clover, Buckwheat and other honey plants. Add to this a large correspondence, much writing for the press, etc., and it may readily be seen that Mr. P. is not likely to rust out for want of work. Perhaps one secret of his great success as a bee-keeper is that he has no fear at all of the little insects and is almost, if not quite, proof against virus of the bee sting, not minding it any more than the pricks of a pin or a thistle. He says this is due to "good