

frames are a little awkward to handle, but we cannot reasonably expect a reversible frame to be anything else. When it is necessary to extract then, however, I find it can be done quite readily. One can be set in each corner of the Langstroth Basket, or even four on each side, very nicely, and extracting then becomes much less tedious than it would seem. I shall have more to say later on in reference to this new hive—for I consider it essentially new notwithstanding the adverse criticisms and claims.

ALLEN PRINGLE.

Selby, Ont.

Possibly the screws which were sent with your hives were of the first lot we made—of birch. The wood is somewhat softer than it should be, but not having anything better at hand at the moment we made a few of them. Our last batch are of beech, and are just about as tough and as well made as they well can be. However, we are in communication with our foundry people to ascertain the cost of malleable iron screws to be used for the purpose, and another season will find us prepared to furnish something that will answer the purpose and make a "good job on't."

FOR THE CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL.

INCIDENTS.

A HUMAN SWARMING PLACE.—A SWARM ON THE WATER.

IT is on record that swarms have clustered on the person of the bee-keeper or his assistant, but this very rarely occurs. The Rev. Father Granottia, parish priest of this place, keeps a few stocks of bees. Last summer he had a swarm issue. The old time tin pan was brought into requisition and was being vigorously beaten by a youth of about fourteen summers; presently the bees began to settle upon the lad's hat, he stood panic-stricken for a time while the bees kept settling down upon his head. By and by the whole swarm had clustered on the boy. The good priest's consternation baffled description; his anxiety for the boy's safety was intense. Not knowing what best to do he dispatched a messenger for a neighboring bee-keeper, who when he arrived found the boy had regained his self-possession, was standing bolt-upright with his arms folded, while festoons of bees hung from the brim of his hat. In due time the bees were safely hived and the boy escaped without a sting.

The above is not the only bee story to be recorded as having its origin in this town. About three summers ago, a schooner cleared from Dé-

troit, bound for the port of Owen Sound. Two or three hours after she left Detroit, and whilst still in the river, a swarm of bees came off and clustered upon the bowsprit of the vessel. Soon she cleared the river and reached away into lake Huron, still the bees remained clustered upon her bowsprit. Night came, dawn broke, the day passed and the cluster remained intact. For eight long days and nights the bees, like the dove sent out from Noah's ark, could find no rest for the soles of their feet on the broad expanse of waters over which the vessel passed. Self preservation evidently remained uppermost in their little minds for they still clung to their first resting place and seemed to be happy and contented when the schooner was tied up at the dock in Owen Sound. It now became necessary for the jibs to be furled, but the sailors stubbornly refused to go out on that jib-boom to do the work. In this dilemma, the captain ran his fingers through his hair and enquired if there were any bee-keepers in the place, whereupon, Mr. Miller the governor of the jail was sent for. He went down to the vessel, hived the swarm and has their progeny in his bee-yard at this day.

I think, Mr. Editor, the above incidents deserve a place in the JOURNAL.

R. McKNIGHT.

Owen Sound.

Certainly, friend McK, these incidents are worthy of being recorded in the CANADIAN BEE JOURNAL. We always have room for anything from your pen, knowing that it will be full of interest.

Canadian Live-Stock Journal.

COMB BUILDING.

I HAVE lately become more than ever convinced of the mistake that many beginners make in purchasing bees without knowing the condition of combs in the hive. They are not aware that there is any material difference between one hive of bees and another, and are guided in their purchases by the number of dollars asked. A very common question is, What is a hive of bees worth? It will at once be seen how very foolish this would seem if applied to anything else, as for instance, what is a horse worth? or what is a cow worth? Every one knows that the worth of cows and horses depends on conditions, so it is with bees, and one of the most important is, the kind of combs. My attention has been drawn to this lately, by assisting to overhaul ten colonies that were purchased by my neighbors at an auction sale. In most of them, it was with great difficulty the combs could be removed. They were not only built into each other in every imaginable shape, but sometimes I found only one comb on two