

own sons, for I have always thought that, when it comes to choosing a life business, each one should choose for himself. While it is true that man to a great extent makes his circumstances, still it is also true that circumstances to a great extent makes the man.

I am well acquainted with a man who was born on a farm, and worked hard on it for several years after he was married. He was temperate and of excellent habits, working early and late; but still his farm life was a perfect failure. After toiling in close circumstances for several years his wife's friends got him a situation in New York city. Then the scale turned. He struck a place that God had fitted him for, and for thirteen years he has had a net income of over twenty thousand dollars a year. I speak of this case to show that many of us are trying to make a success of some business to which we are not at all adapted; also to show the importance of trying hard while young to start right.

You should look upon your business as your bank; and whenever you can add a dollar to it, do so, and it will return in due time many fold. Take pride in having a good apiary, and remember there is far more in the honey-man than in the business. If the bee-keeper in the future will take our leading bee journals he can, through their advice, shun so many troubles that we older men had to bear, that it is almost like another business—not but that it is still subject to many discouraging conditions; and our inability to have any control over the season is and always will be its worst feature. But all lines of business have some troubles with which to contend. When the farmer loses his stock it

is hard and costly to replace, and it often takes some time to do it; or when his crops are ruined by untimely frosts or protracted droughts the loss is hard to bear and overcome. But when the bee-keeper loses a large per cent. of his bees he still has the hives and combs left; and if he has some good colonies he can soon have his original number again with but little expense, and usually secure some surplus besides.

Here is one great advantage our business has over many others. Taking our bees safely through long cold winters and very changeable spring weather, with small loss, has been a hard problem to solve; but this part of the business is now so much better understood by nearly all bee-keepers than it was a few years ago that we feel much encouraged in eventually overcoming other troubles as we have this.

Each year brings some new methods whereby our business is placed on a more reliable basis than it formerly was, enabling us to produce honey cheaper than we ever could before. Still, we have some dark clouds of losses and disappointments hovering over us. I have seen many through which it has been almost impossible to see a ray of silver lining; but as the mariner's compass will guide the ship safely through ocean storms, so will continual perseverance lead you on and on through these trying hours until a clear unclouded sunset welcomes you to a land of rest.

It is not so very many years ago that bee-keeping as a specialty was in its infancy; and bee-keeping as a sole business was very seldom attempted. The solving of the wintering problem for northern bee-keepers, the overcoming of foul brood, increased fac-