

covered with *honey-dew*, and that the *cause* of rust has been assigned to it.

For some days my bees have worked but little—only mornings when there was a supply of the ordinary dew. We have seen so much dry weather that the honey-dew has dried on the leaves. The bees can gather it, however, while the leaves are moist with the other dew.

The honey gathered from the sources described, has a very pleasant flavor. It is very thick. The colonies of bees in this section, and other localities where I have been, are nearly full of honey—no brood scarcely.

*The Cause of Honey-Dew.*—The cause of honey-dew is still a mystery to me. I am inclined, however, to the belief that it is produced by the aphides. They are very numerous, and where they are most numerous, there is the largest supply of honey. I have observed no honey on trees where there were no aphides.—But the honey may be found under the trees—on the grass, sticks, and stones. It is thought by some that the aphides discharge the honey while flying. If this were so it would seem that we ought to find this dew on the leaves of certain trees and bushes, in close proximity. By close observation, I find that certain trees, within a few feet of these, having a supply of honey-dew, have none of it upon them. I would call your attention to an article on the causes of honey-dew, given on the 29th page of the *American Bee Journal*. At present, I cannot fully endorse the writer's views.

*Bass-wood—White Clover.*—The bass-wood season is over. This tree did not blossom as full as usual this season. We usually have sufficient bass-wood blossoms to keep our bees busy about ten days. We have had a fine crop of white clover. The drouth put an end to the supply about the 4th of this month—July. The season being dry, it secreted an immense supply of honey. A large percentage of the crop has failed to mature, in consequence of the drouth. As we are having a fine shower, the probability is we shall have an excellent second crop.

M. M. BALDRIDGE.

Kane Co., Ill., July 1853.

—*Prairie Farmer.*

## ITALIAN BEES.

Bee culture is beginning to receive more attention in Canada than formerly, and we have seen this summer two or three instances in which it is conducted on a rather extensive scale, and certainly with distinguished success. The Italian species, which has of late received much attention and commendation in the neighboring States, is as yet but little known in this Province. The subjoined article from our excellent cotemporary, *The Country Gentleman*, will be found to contain

much that is interesting and of practical value in relation to the habits and management of these busy and useful little creatures :—

Having had more than three years' experience with these bees, I send you some important facts respecting them, which have fallen under my own observation, and which I believe have not yet been given to the public.

1. The queens are not only more prolific (as previous writers have remarked,) than those of the common kind, but are much more disposed to keep their brood *completely* in the combs. An Italian Colony will often have in two or three combs, as large a surface of brood as the black queens will ordinarily have in four or five. This habit of *squaring* out their work, is more particularly noticeable in the early part of the season, and its importance will be readily appreciated by every bee-keeper.

2. *The Italian bees, when forage is abundant, are far less disposed to rob than the black bees.*

As this fact is not only highly important but directly contrary to the common opinion, the evidence of it will be given somewhat in detail.

Having purchased, last summer, a number of stocks of black bees, in moveable comb hives, I examined them when the fruit trees were in blossom, in order to learn the condition of each colony. After a few hours spent in this work, the bees would follow in great numbers whenever they saw me approach a hive to open it. I was very much surprised to notice that nearly all the robbers were black bees. I cannot be mistaken as to this fact, as both myself and my son spent some hours, for several days, in examining those hives. Some drone-combs, having honey in them, were exposed to the bees, so that when emptied they might be used for breeding Italian drones, and these combs were soon covered with black bees, very few Italians alighting upon them although I had a large number of strong Italian colonies. This year, having only a few black bees, and more than eighty Italian colonies on my own premises, nearly all the bees that attempt to rob hives when they are opened, or to alight upon combs containing honey are of the black kind.

I have pointed out these facts to many who have visited my apiary, and the general opinion is, that when forage is abundant, Italian bees are so eager to gather honey from the blossoms, that they have very little inclination to secure it from other sources. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of this peculiarity in an apiary where moveable comb hives are used, and where artificial swarming, and other manipulations which require the hives to be opened, are practised.

It is true that when forage is scarce, the