

gave him the needed outdoor recreation while engaged in literary pursuits, and in the course of time he became possessed with the idea that it might be possible to so construct a hive that its contents in every part might be easily examined. He tried what had been invented in this direction, bars, slats, and the "leaf-hive," of Huber's. None of these, however, were satisfactory, and at length he conceived the idea of surrounding each comb with a frame of wood entirely detached from the walls of the hive, leaving at all parts, except the point of support, space enough between the frame and the hive for the passage of the bees. In 1852 the invention of the movable-comb hive was completed, and the hive was patented Oct. 4 of that year.

It is well-known that, among the very many hives in use, no other make is more popular than the Langstroth: but it may not be so well known that, in a very important sense, every hive in use among intelligent bee-keepers is a Langstroth; that is, it contains the most important features of the Langstroth—the movable comb. Those who have entered the field of apiculture within a few years may faintly imagine, but can hardly realize, what bee-keeping would be to-day, if throughout the world, in every bee-hive, the combs should suddenly become immovable, fixed, never again to be taken out of the hive, only as they were broken or cut out. Yet exactly that condition of affairs existed through all the centuries of bee-keeping up to the time when, to take out every comb and return again to the hive without injury to the colony, was made possible by the inventive genius of Mr. Langstroth. It is no small compliment to the far-seeing inventive powers of Mr. Langstroth, that, although frames of different sizes have been devised and tried, and improvements, so-called, upon his hive have been made by the hundred, yet to-day no other size of frame is more popular than that settled upon by him, and, in general, the so-called improvements are one after another dropped into oblivion, and thousands of hives are today in use among the best bee keepers, scarcely varying, if varying at all, from the Langstroth hive as first sent out.

As a writer Mr. Langstroth takes a high place. "Langstroth on the Hive and Honey Bee," published in May, 1853, is considered a classic; and any contribution from the pen of its author to the columns of the bee journals is read with eagerness. Instead of amassing the fortune one would think he so richly deserves, Mr. Langstroth is to-day not worth a dollar. He sowed, others reaped. At the date of his invention

he had 20 colonies of bees, and never exceeded 125.

In August, 1836, Mr. Langstroth was married to Miss Anna M. Tucker, who died in January, 1873. He has had three children. The oldest, a son, died of consumption contracted in the army. Two daughters still survive.

Since his twentieth year Mr. Langstroth has suffered from attacks of "head trouble" of a strange and distressing character. During those attacks, which have lasted from six months to more than a year (in one case two years), he is unable to write or even converse, and he views with aversion any reference to these subjects which particularly delight him at other times. Mr. Langstroth is a man of fine presence, simple and unostentatious in manner, cheerful, courteous and a charming conversationalist.

In reply to a question, he writes, under date of March 26, 1888: "I am now a minister in the Presbyterian church. Although not a settled pastor, I preach occasionally, and delight in nothing so much as the Christian work. My parents were members of Mr. Barnes' church, in Philadelphia, the mother Presbyterian church in the United States." C. C. MILLER.

A short account of my own meeting with Father Langstroth at the recent Toronto convention, I gave on page 620. It was the only time I ever saw him. How glad I am now that I went to Toronto! To meet him was worth all it cost, and more. There were many things we talked about during that memorable three hours' visit I had with him in the hotel parlor. How he unfolded to me the history of the apicultural past—particularly regarding his great invention, popularly known as the "Langstroth hive"—and the prodigious injustice and gigantic wrong done him by those who are now, I believe, mainly "out of the bee business," and who can never, here or hereafter, undo their wickedness. But the great Father Langstroth, in the depth of his kind and forgiving heart, bore no ill-will, spoke no uncharitable word.

But I must not at this time dwell upon the magnificence of his character, nor the spotless purity of his life, though I feel that golden-tongued poet never uttered apter words of any man than these, which apply with such peculiar force and truthfulness to our beloved Father Langstroth—

"None knew him but to love him,
None knew him but to praise."

—American Bee Journal.

[We note the above just as we go to press.—Ed.]