

To-day, (August 12th) after working with the bees for a time, and handling the honey (there being no honey in the flowers) strong colonies seemed to be inclined to rob, and a number of nuclei were attacked. For a time it seemed as if the strong colonies were master of the situation. Whole swarms were flying about the yard endeavoring to enter weak colonies, but force pumps were brought into requisition and a liberal supply of cold water scattered the robbing forces promiscuously around the yard, and in a very few minutes all signs of robbing had disappeared. The moment a bee received a little of the spray he left for his own hive at once. The most liberal application of smoke from the smoker seemed to have little effect upon them. Bees seem to have a great dislike to water, and if the alighting board be the least bit wet they do not like to pass over it going into the hive.

ROBBERY AT THE RICHARDSON YARD.

The mint honey this year seems unusually dark and strong, although it is very much thicker than in ordinary seasons. It is owing, we presume to the drought. Golden rod has yielded very little. While we find wasps and humble bees visiting it few honey bees can be found upon it, except on one variety, which has a drooping head of flowers more like weeping willow. This variety seems to yield more honey than any of the others, and is usually found in the more moist places, and for want of a better name we call it "swamp golden rod."

On returning home from the Adjala yard the other day we passed along by the Richardson yard. About half a mile from it, (the Richardson yard) is a large swamp where the fire has passed over. The fall flowers are in abundance here, especially bone set. That which grows upon the higher and drier places is scarcely visited by the bees, while that in the lower and wet places had many more bees working on it, some heads having as high as six or seven bees on the single stalk. This seems to indicate that it requires considerable moisture to make it yield honey well. At the apiary the one in charge attempted to prevent the robbing of a nucleus by closing it up and giving them only entrance enough

to pass out and in or scarcely that, as they had a small hole made in the block which closes the entrance. It allowed the bees to pass in and out. They did not remain long closed up in this way before the heat melted the combs down, and of course the honey commenced running out at the entrance. This made a grand picnic for some of our strong colonies. They went to work with a will to gather all the honey that leaked out and paid no attention to the bees inside but simply piled on the hive in swarms, in fact you could hardly find the entrance of the front of the hive for bees and the whole yard was fast becoming excited. A pail of cold water was brought, and with a pump we sprayed the bees and kept the cold water falling like a shower upon them for a few minutes. In a very short time the place was clear as every robber that got his wings wet or dampened appeared to leave in disgust. Then there were one or two other strong colonies which were determined to rob their neighboring hives, and these being four story high were so strong that an ordinary colony could not withstand them, so in order to make them behave themselves we laid a little brush in front of their hives, threw on some grass and sprayed them with cold water. This completely dampened their ardour. They stayed at home as contentedly as if it had been raining all the time, and scarcely flew out for several hours. Now it seems to us that this would be a good plan to prevent robbing. If we can find the robber hives, which is not difficult, by placing a sieve in front to allow plenty of air to come in, or putting a little cold water on the ground about the hive and dampening the hay, straw or grass, which is placed on the brush, completely prevents them robbing. Where only a few hives are doing the robbing this probably would be more beneficial than to guard those being robbed, as it has the effect of completely quieting down all robbers.

Bee-keepers seem to know when they get a good thing offered them, as is evinced by the way in which our special offer of note heads and envelopes is being taken advantage of. We keep one press going on these steadily and we expect to have to duplicate our order for envelopes and paper to keep up with the demand, that is if we can do so. It may be possible that the bargain which we got cannot be repeated. If so, we will let you know.