

for man to be alone, he accepted the suggestion of the good book and his father's example and took unto himself a young English woman as a help-meet. Since then he has returned to first principles and the parental acres, where he may still be found analysing his after dinner thoughts, between the naps in which he indulges in "the o.d. arm chair."

WASHINGTON CONVENTION.

TWENTY-THIRD CONVENTION OF NORTH AMERICAN BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual Convention of this Association met at Washington on December 27th, 28th and 29th. The President, Mr. Eugene Secor, took the chair at 2 p.m. Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson, of the *Beekeeper's Review*, acted as Secretary. Other members present were Messrs. Frank and Ralph Benton, of Washington, D. C.; Charles Ouillett, West Chester, Pa.; R. F. Holtermann, Brantford, Ont.; E. W. Pitman, Centerville, Va.; W. Hislop, Ontario; R. F. Will, South River, Md.; H. E. Bliss, W. Winfield, N. Y.; W. S. Kemp, Farmington, Pa.; R. Ebery, Strasburg, Va.; T. F. King, Landover, Md.; A. H. Draper, Upper Alton, Ill.; G. W. York, Chicago, Ill.; A. C. Hooper, Washington, D. C.; C. D. Duvall, Spencerville, Va.; Mrs. C. H. Martin, Yonkers, N. Y.; G. W. Sharpless, Linden Grove, Pa.; G. W. Porter, Charlotteville, Va.; A. I. Root, Medina, O.; E. R. Root, and some others. The meeting was not very largely attended, though there was a very substantial sprinkling of representative men present.

Some preliminary work being completed, the President read his opening address as follows:—

PREIDENT'S ADDRESS.

I wish, first of all, to express my sense of gratitude to the all merciful Father who has permitted us to see each others' faces again at our annual meeting.

So far as I know, no member of this society has been called to cross the silent river since last we met. Abundant labors and insidious disease may have enfeebled

some of our honored veterans, and deprived us of the pleasure of their presence and counsel, yet I am thankful that they still live, and their interest in apiculture will turn their thoughts towards this convention.

One of the pleasant features of an organized association is the thought of meeting kindred spirits and renewing old, or forming new friendships. The opportunities which these meetings afford for social intercourse and personal acquaintance should not be lightly thrown aside. Life long attachments are created which are cheering and helpful to many a pilgrim as he nears the sun down of life. These meetings, too, bring us face to face with those whose writings we have read, and I opine that, after we have become acquainted with a writer, we know what value to place on his dictum.

Those who believe that beekeepers' conventions are only valuable in proportion to the number and length of the discussions on technical subjects, have failed to take into account the social part of our nature and the benefits to be derived from a closer personal contact with those who have achieved success in the same line of work.

Our meeting in this city is opportune. We are enabled by records and models in the Patent Office to learn what science and invention have done in the last forty years for the pursuit which we represent. Indeed it will not be boasting if we assert that in the period named, more progress has been made in the field of practical apiculture than in all previous recorded time. Some interesting and important facts relating to the natural history of the honey bee had been known for a long time, but they were facts which were not particularly valuable to the honey producer until the invention of the movable frame hive. The improvements which followed in rapid succession made a new era in beekeeping. Until then it was an uncertain and unremunerative employment. When the caravans of the East took honey as an article of merchandise from the land of Assyria to Egypt, they probably got their supply from the mountain caves, where the wild bees, in favorable years, had stored a surplus. But I have no idea that any one in the great cities of the ancients ever got a taste of it except the rich.

Following the invention of the Langstroth hive came the extractor, the section honey-box and comb foundation—the last two, in my opinion, as important as anything ever given to beekeepers. The section-box has popularized honey to such an extent little known or dreamed of a half century ago. Instead of the large unsteady