and repeat—I have also noticed, what Huber describes in their piping, the stillness of the workers during these performances.

I was not aware until GLEANINGS reached me, that this peculiarity was more noticeable in my queens than others. I reared from 5 queens, chosen and tested, the year before, but 4-5 of those sent you were from two very large and light colored, as well as prolific queens and industrious worker bees. Neither of the queens mothers produced drones—didn't allow it.

SMOKERS.

A neighbor bee keeper came over to buy a smoker—I exhibited four—offered yours for $1, what it cost me, and the others at a discount on cost. After trial and thorough examination he chose yours, carried it home, and is delighted with it.

RED BUD.

I send you a small lot of *Red Bud* seed, and two seed pods of same. I could gather a peck or more of the seed on my place, if they were worth anything to any body. The tree blooms a little before the peach in our section and remains in bloom much longer, and is eagerly sought by the bees.

W. P. HENDERSON.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Sept. 14th, 1878.

I, too, have noticed a hush among the bees, when the queen's voice was heard. Your friend doubtless preferred the Simplicity smoker, but from reports through the journals, others doubtless think differently. We have heard the red bud often spoken of, and will have the seeds planted. Thank you.

HOW TO GET A START.

CHAPTER SECOND.

I WILL give you the result of that small swarm of bees described under the heading, "How to Get a start," page 126, Apr. No. of GLEANINGS.

I bought a dollar queen of J. H. Nellis, and introduced her on the 22d. day of Sep., 1877. By the 1st. of May, the black bees had disappeared. The last of them must have been 7 months old. On the 20th of June, they cast their first swarm; on the 30th of June, they cast a second swarm. All went well until the 14th day of Aug., when the first swarm, which came out the 20th of June, cast their first swarm, and, on the 24th, a second swarm, which I returned to the parent hive, after allowing them to hang on the tree all night, for punishment. On Sunday, Sep. 1st, the second swarm, which came out June 30th, cast their 1st swarm. I returned them also, and the next morning, found 3 dead queens. Now, friend Root, I call this altogether too much swarming; it looks as if they don't know when they are well off.

I would rather hive 4 black swarms than one Italian. Ugly is no adjective for them, when you shake them off the tree. If I had kept them all separate, instead of returning them to the parent hive, I should have had 5 new swarms from that pint of bees. It seems that my blacks know enough, when they have swarmed once, to stop; for from 4 hives of black's, I had 4 swarms, one from each. The Italians are good on swarming. DAVID C. BROW.

Stamford, Ct., Sep. 10th, 1878.

My friend, please do not be in too much of a hurry to compare your blacks and Italians, but just keep hold of the "start" you have got, and give the Italians a chance. It may be true that they swarm more than the blacks, but they also get more honey. Give them a chance, and you will have a fine apiary, almost before you know it; and, if you give them room before they get crowded, I think you will find no trouble with their swarming. We have had just 6 swarms this season from over 100 colonies, but we constantly had an eye on them all. One of the above 6, was a truant swarm that came to us. It is very likely true, that Italians are crosser in hiving than black bees, as a general thing. Use smoke, make them behave.

The "Browlery."

[This department is to be kept for the benefit of those who are dissatisfied; and when anything is amiss, I hope you will "talk right out." As a rule we will omit names and addresses, to avoid being too personal.]

YOU "give diagrams for general purposes," do you? A happy thought, isn't it? The GLEANINGS must certainly be a valuable affair, if for no other reason than that its Editor is a person of inexhaustive experience, and who cannot agree with facts, other editors, or anything else; he is so taken up in reforming miserable humanity, I suppose, as to make such a thing impossible. Five Langstroth frames, packed on all sides as in chaff hives, will winter well enough, but only a few bee-keepers will adopt such cumbersome concerns. J. V.

Adams Sta., N. Y., Sept. 10, 1878.

Friend V., I just opened my mouth in astonishment, when I read your postal, and for the life of me, I could not tell what called it forth, until the letter that you wrote last was hunted up. You said my comparison of the Gallup and L. hives on page 299 was was not a fair one. I penciled on the margin of the letter that I gave the diagram for general purposes, meaning that it was an approximate comparison; the clerk, by mistake, wrote the word "give" instead of "gave." Of course, I do not give *all* my diagrams for general purposes. Can you not scrape up a little more charity? I am sorry I make so many mistakes, and I am sorry, too, to disagree with so many good people, but consider, my friend, that if I agree with everybody that comes along, you would hardly think it worth while to come to me for my opinion. I have tried the Gallup, American, Adair, and other short frames, as well as deep frames, and after going the rounds for several years, I feel willing to adopt the L. frame for the rest of my life. Especially, do I want a shallow frame for a two story hive. I shall feel just as friendly toward you, whether you agree with me, or no.

BEE BOTANY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

I SEND by the same mail with this, one of your queen cages containing some bugs that are killing bees. They are found on the golden rod. I found 5 one evening, within 40 rods, each with a dead bee.

The bees have not done well here this summer, especially the latter part; and most singular has it been, that the bees seemed to diminish very fast, at one time, when they were gathering honey.

I send two specimens of flies that have been very numerous here this summer, and I have found some with bees in their clutches. They are very strong. They also catch other insects, such as millers and mosquito hawks. Are they the same as described in your GLEANINGS?

I have not yet discovered the bugs in the act of killing the bees, but have always found the bee dead, and the bug would have hold of one of the legs or the feelers, and hold him as if nothing had happened, the same as a boy would a cricket. My opinion is that it poisons the bee. Let us know something about it in GLEANINGS, or I shall have to make closer investigations myself, although I am busy.

J. F. ZATTERSTROM.

Spencer Brook, Minn., Aug. 25, 1878.

The two winged fly is the Missouri Bee Killer, *Asilus Missouriensis*, the same as described and illustrated in the revised Manual, p. 263; also in August GLEANINGS, p. 259).

The other insects sent, are true bugs. The scientific name is *Phymata Erosa*. It is ⅜ of an inch long, of a greenish yellow color, while across the flattened and expanded abdomen, on the back, is a dark brown band. The colors vary very much.

This insect seems to be getting quite a notoriety as a bee-killer. I have received it from Maryland, Iowa, and now from Minnesota, with the same complaint. I have long known it here as one of our valued insect destroyers. It preys on plant lice, caterpillars, etc.

I am preparing a full description of the insect, with a portrait, which will soon appear in one of the bee papers. A. J. COOK.

Mich. Ag. College, Lansing, Sept. 5, 1878.

I send you a package of flowers that grow in our garden. The bees work on them much. Can you tell me what they are, and whether they are worth cultivating for bees to work on?

LEWIS T. COLBY.

Enfield Center, New Hampshire, Aug. 5, 1878.

The specimen sent is *Veronica Spicata*, a tall perennial from Europe. It is one sort of Speedwell, of which we have about a dozen species. Bees like the flowers of all.

At Lansing, we have a good deal of *Veronica Virginica*, or Culver's Physic.

The plant sent is sometimes raised for ornament.

W. J. BEAL.

Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich.

MINTS.

Enclosed I send the blossom of a plant; can you give its true name, and inform me whether bees gather large quantities of honey from it? My bees go about 1½ miles for it, and seems extremely busy on it from 10 A. M. until sundown.

This year is my first with the fdn. comb. I would not be without it. The comb machine I got of you has more than paid for itself in making up wax for others in this section. W. H. STEWART.

Orion, Wis., Aug. 23d, 1878.

P. S. This plant thrives only on the poorest sandy barrens. S.

Answer, by Prof. W. J. Beal, Mich. Agricul. College.

This is *Monarda Bradburiana*, one of the horse mints or bergamonts, all of which, I have no reason to doubt, are good for honey. I have never known a plant of the mint family which bees did not like. We have about eighty species of mints in the region to the north and east of Kentucky and the Mississippi and many more to the west. Among those often sent me are *Teucrium Canadense*, Germander, *Lycopus*, (two species), *Pycnanthamum* (2 or 3 species), Thyme, Summer Savory, Calamintha, Balm, *Collinsonia* or horse balm, Sago, three species of *Monarda*, Catnip, *Scutellaria* (2 or more species), *Stachys* or hedge-nettle, and Motherwort.

As to the quantity of honey made by any of these, I know nothing.

ASTERS.

J. Chapman, Home, Mich., sends a piece of one of our common asters. There are, east of the Mississippi, in the Unted Sates, about 60 species of asters, all good for bees. They look a good deal alike. There are several species which closely resemble this one sent me now. It is probably *Aster miser*, a very common species and one extensively variable; I have not a complete specimen now. Asters and golden rods are two leading genera of our autum wild plants. W. J. BEAL.

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 12th, 1878.

CLEOME OR ROCKY MOUNTAIN BEE-PLANT.

J. A. Simpson, of Warren Co., Ills., sends me *Cleome integrifolia*, which is sometimes also called Rocky Mountain Bee-Plant. Cleome is the best name for it; this is short and easy. He requests an answer in GLEANINGS. W. J. BEAL

Lansing, Mich., Sep,, 22d, 1878.

THE SPIDER PLANT AGAIN.

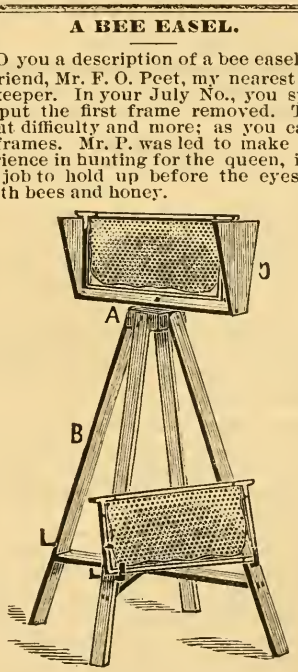
Our experience with the spider plant, this season, is this; it commenced to bloom about the 25th of June, and the bees have worked on it every day (fit day) since. They commence about 5 o'clock P. M., and work until dark. I used to think that bees went home with the sun, but I have heard them on this plant when too dark to see them any distance; and found them again in the morning as soon as it is light, and for a while after sunrise. If you tie a piece of musquito bar over a bunch of the flowers, in the afternoon, and examine it about sun-down, you can see the honey for yourself. We have about 1-10 of an acre this year, but expect, next season, to plant several acres, as we consider it ahead of anything that we have tried for honey. If any of your bee friends would like to try it, I will send them a small package for ten cents. Friend Novice, just try it, and I think you will agree with me that we had better ignore botany this once, and have a christening of this *spider*, and call it Honey-plant, or what? MOLLIE O. LARGE.

Pine Hill Apiary, Millersville, Pa., Sept. 11th, 1878.

Why, Mollie, you are a genius. I have just looked at one of the spider plant blossoms that had some lace tied over it, according to your suggestion, to keep the bees away, and the drop of honey that had collected on it was so large that I had a real good taste of it. There was not enough of it to make me sick, it is true, but sufficient to see how very pure and white it is, although it had a slightly raw unripened taste, which I presume the bees will know how to remedy. If I should ever get so far away from home as Pine Hill Apiary, I will come and see your flower garden, and I expect we shall have one of the biggest kind of visits.

A BEE EASEL.

I SEND you a description of a bee easel, made by my friend, Mr. F. O. Peet, my nearest neighbor bee-keeper. In your July No., you speak of a place to put the first frame removed. This easel meets that difficulty and more; as you can load it up with frames. Mr. P. was led to make this from his experience in hunting for the queen, it being a tiresome job to hold up before the eyes a frame heavy with bees and honey.



AN EASEL TO HOLD COMBS.

The stand is made as follows: take a cubic block, A, measuring four inches each way, and four strips of wood, B, 1¼ inches square by 3 or 4 feet long; nail these strips one at each corner of the block for legs; spread the lower ends about 18 inches apart, and secure them by nailing cross pieces about half way down. In the middle of the top, or block, put a round nail letting it project upward about 1½ inches. This is for a pivot. Take three pieces of board, C, 4 inches wide; let the one for the bottom have the same length as the inside of your hive, and the other two for the sides have the same length as the height of the hive; nail the two side pieces on the ends of the bottom piece, and bore a hole in the center of the bottom piece, large enough to fit the pivot in A; place this, C, on the stand, A, and you have a swivel; hang your frame in it, and you can hunt for your queen at leisure, turning C as you