

of bees. I thought at first it was a swarm, but soon found out they were working on the white-oak tree. To make sure of the matter, I climbed up in a tree and watched them alighting on the little acorns. I secured some of them, and found the sweet liquid oozing out of them. They reminded me of the gum blossoms, the honey standing in little drops. But this tree must be different from Texas oak.

Flat Ridge, O., Dec. 7, 1881.

A. H. DUFF.

#### BEE-KEEPERS' CONVENTIONS.

I have been reading the journals very closely, and I notice that there is a great interest being taken in the bee-keepers' conventions throughout the United States. I notice that Michigan has six associations; and if Michigan can have six, it looks as if Indiana could afford to have one; and I think that it would get the bee-keepers acquainted with each other, and enable them to discuss the best method of handling and wintering our little pets, and getting them as strong as possible by the time the honey crop comes. I would like to hear from the rest of the bee-keepers of Indiana and other States, for I think we can have a convention that will be interesting and beneficial to all who attend. Mr. Root, I would like to hear from you on this subject, and would like to know if you will help us all you can in trying to get up this convention. Bee-keepers of Indiana, let us all try to see if we can get this association started, and have a meeting this next spring. Let us hear from all who are interested in the welfare of bees, through GLEANINGS or any other journal.

GEORGE W. BAKER.

Lewisville, Ind., Dec. 8, 1881.

I will gladly do all I can, friend B., consistent with the best interests of our large circle of readers, for I am well convinced that conventions, like the one I have recently attended, will be productive of much good. Please bear in mind, that we wish to have these pages filled with matter of general interest to all its readers, as much as possible, and that it would hardly be fair to take much space for any thing of interest to any one special locality. We mean to *announce* all conventions; but please bear in mind, that for reasons above given, we can not give very much space to each.

#### FROM BLASTED HOPES TO SMILERY.

I am not a new subscriber to your magazine; my time ran out last spring, and I thought my bees were going too. I put 16 swarms into the cellar after a two-week's zero freeze, and came out in the spring with 9, and felt quite discouraged; but God in his goodness has increased them to 21, and gave us (I should say *us* instead of *me*, for my wife is a worker in the apiary with me) 585 lbs. of honey, mostly in 1-lb. sections, and have sold most of it at 17 and 20 cts. per lb. We have missed GLEANINGS very much.

Waupaca, Wis., Dec., 1881.

J. B. GREEN.

#### FRIEND HAYHURST'S "TIN-PAIL STORY."

The consignment of pint pails that you refer to on page 578, Dec. GLEANINGS, was duly received, and they outsell any package I have ever used. The freight bill was \$1.81, making the total cost to me \$14.56 — just \$6.44 less than the lowest figures that I can get, in our city of nearly 100,000 inhabitants, for the same article; I begin to think that some of us fellows out here *had* better start a tin-shop. I thank

you from the bottom of my — boots for your prompt way of doing business, not only in shipping without delay, but in *always* acknowledging receipt of orders. Your style of packing is excellent; not one of the whole 300 pails was injured in transit. If we Kansas City folks get a good crop of honey next year, and do not have our tin-shop started, "John" will have a big stock of pails to make for us.

E. M. HAYHURST.

P. S.—We (wife, babies, and self) are *wonderfully* pleased with the little pails.

E. M. H.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 15, 1881.

## Bee Botany.

### OR HONEY PLANTS TO BE NAMED.

CHAS. E. McRAY, Canon City, Colorado, sends us a beautiful-looking blossom, which he describes as follows:—

It is in blossom all summer, and bees work on it almost as they do on mignonnette.

Canon City, Colorado.

CHAS. E. McRAY.

As it was beyond our experience, we sent it to Prof. Beal, who names it as follows:—

This is *Petalostemon macrostachyus*. I have had two other species sent in as bee-plants. It is nearly related to the clovers, and several of them are called prairie clovers.

W. J. BEAL.

Agricultural College, Lansing, Mich., Nov., 1881.

## Ladies' Department.

THE following is credited to Mrs. Harrison, but as the scrap of paper I found it on told no more, I do not know how I shall be able to give credit any further. See if it does not sound like her.

Bee-keeping, although a laborious employment, demands no great outlay of strength at one time. It embraces the performance of many little items, which require skill and gentleness more than muscle. The hand of woman from nature, habit, and education, has acquired an ease of motion which is agreeable to the sensibilities of bees, and her breath is seldom offensive to their olfactories by reason of tobacco or beer.

Women have demonstrated that the making of hives and surplus boxes is no objection, as they have purchased them in the flat, nailed, and painted them. The hiving of swarms is neither more difficult nor dangerous than the washing of windows or milking. The right time to extract honey, or to put on, or take off surplus boxes, requires no more tact or skill to determine than the proper fermentation of bread, or the right temperature of the oven required for baking. She is in her allotted sphere while raising queens and nursing weak colonies, or caring for the honey when off the hive.

The most powerful argument in view of the suitability of bee-keeping for women is this: that it is something she can do at home, and not interfere with her domestic duties. Many women of small means have young children depending upon their exertions for support, and remunerative work to be performed at home brings very little in the market of to-day; for instance, the making of overalls at