The Controllable Bee Hive and New System of Bee Management: 1887 Annual Circular

Lizzie E. Cotton

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Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton,

WEST GORHAM, MAINE.
THE CONTROLLABLE BEE HIVE AND NEW SYSTEM OF BEE MANAGEMENT.

In bringing this my Annual Circular for 1887 before the public, I wish to advise every intelligent person who has a spot of land on which to set a hive, to keep bees. Managed on my plan in Controllable Hives, bees are more profit than anything connected with the farm or garden. Bees will go many miles in all directions from their hives to collect honey. The sources from which bees collect honey are almost innumerable. Nearly every flower, plant, tree, shrub and vine in field, forest, garden and pasture yield honey. If it is not desired to enter largely into the production of honey for market, it is certainly very desirable to keep one or two hives of bees to produce honey for family use. There is no greater health giving luxury than pure honey in snow white comb. Severe hoarseness, sore throats, coughs, and many other diseases are cured by the use of pure honey. Almost every family can keep bees successfully and profitably on my plan.

If you have bees in box or patent hives, which are now of little or no profit and giving you much trouble and perplexity, and heavy losses in winter, you will find it for your interest to adopt my plan of management. Spring is the best time to commence on my plan.

For nearly thirty years I have had the care of bees, and have carefully studied their habits, and how best to manage them with the greatest success and profit. I commenced with the common box hive, and I have tested all hives brought to my notice. I have learned from bitter experience, as has nearly every one who has kept bees for any
length of time, the dishonesty and utter disregard for truth, of a class of speculators who prey upon the unsuspecting bee keeper. Patent hives are a hindrance to successful and profitable Bee Keeping. And the same may truthfully be said of several non-patent hives recommended and puffed by Bee journals.

After many unsuccessful experiments and careful investigations, I have succeeded in inventing a Hive and a New System of Bee Management, which completely changes the whole process of Bee Keeping, and renders the business safe and profitable. This Hive and System of Bee Management are entirely original with me. I invented the Hive and Plan of Management for my own use, as I am engaged in raising honey for the market, and wish every swarm of bees I keep to produce the greatest possible amount of surplus honey in the most convenient and attractive marketable form. I will here describe briefly a few of the many advantages gained by the use of my Controllable Hive and New System of Bee Management.

**Swarming Controlled.**

Swarming is controlled as completely and with as much certainty as the increase of cattle, sheep or swine. If swarms are desired, we arrange in early spring to have them issue any week in the swarming season that will best suit our convenience, and they will swarm at the time designated.

When no swarms are wanted, we turn the whole force of bees to storing surplus honey in small glass boxes, throughout the entire season; and to any one who has not tested the matter it is very surprising to see the amount of honey which a swarm of bees will store when not allowed to swarm, and fed on my plan, ample box room being provided easy of access, so all the bees have room to work. By my plan we are not constantly watching and waiting for swarms, with uncertainty throughout the entire summer. This saves much trouble and loss, and insures a good profit.

On my plan the increase of stocks by natural swarming is controlled or prevented, without frequently disturbing or overhauling them in the summer season, but simply by observing rules strictly in accordance with the natural habits and instincts of bees.
Bees Wintered Safely.

Bees are wintered safely on the same stand they occupy through the summer in any part of the United States or Canada. In the Controllable Hive, on my plan, the bees cluster compactly together in one mass,—they are not separated by the sheets of comb as in ordinary hives: this clustering in a compact body enables them to generate animal heat sufficient to protect themselves from the evil effects of sudden and severe turns of cold weather. Then with my Controllable Hive the moisture or perspiration which is thrown off by the bees, is taken care of in cold weather, which keeps the bees, comb and interior of the hive, perfectly dry. No dampness or frost can accumulate, consequently I have no mouldy combs, sour honey, or diseased bees. I do not lose a teacupful of bees on the average, from each of my hives during the winter.

In all other hives with which I am acquainted, the bees are among the combs of the hive in winter, separated by the combs into layers. Being thus separated they cannot generate heat sufficient for their mutual protection, so that sudden turns of cold weather destroy them. And the moisture rising from the bees is a source of great harm; in cold weather it collects about the bees, comb, and inner walls of the hive, in the form of frost, often destroying the bees at the time, or if they survive the frost, a turn of warm weather melts it, then cold again freezes the ice and frost on the combs and walls of the hive, and sometimes, even the bees are so covered with the melting frost and ice that a sudden turn of cold weather envelopes them completely in the icy covering and they are thus destroyed. It is of the greatest importance to have strong stocks in early spring. *Very few bees lost in winter on my plan.*

No Loss from the Bee Moth.

With the Controllable Hive and New System of Bee Keeping, the true condition of stocks is known at all times. The stocks are very populous in July and August, which is the time the Bee Moth is most numerous about the hives. *I have never had a stock damaged by the Bee Moth since I adopted my present system.*
Feeding Bees.

Feeding on my plan is a sure road to large profits from bees. In early spring I feed lightly to encourage the bees to breed rapidly early in the season, so as to have a large number of bees ready to work when the flowers bloom. A few days before the honey harvest from flowers begins, I feed liberally to fill the store combs of the main hive, and to get them started in the boxes, in order to secure in boxes, all the honey that is gathered from flowers.

The feed I use costs only about seven cents a pound, and when stored in combs by the bees, cannot be distinguished from white clover honey by the most delicate taste. The bees will build comb from this feed as rapidly as when gathering honey from flowers, when finishing out boxes nearly full.

My plan of feeding is intended to encourage the bees to breed rapidly in early spring, and to give the bees nearly all they require for their own use, that we may obtain in glass boxes nearly all they collect from flowers.

My feeder is arranged so that I feed each swarm separately in its own hive, and I have known a swarm to take up and store in comb ready for receiving it, twelve pounds of my feed in six hours.

Now it is plain to every intelligent person, that in order to receive the greatest possible profit from bees, they must be fed. There can be no question as to the great benefit to be derived from feeding bees. The only question is, how, when and what to feed. It will pay as well to feed bees, as to feed our domestic animals, cows, sheep, etc., or to manure plants, or any crop the farmer cultivates, to stimulate growth and increase the product, and consequent profit of the same.

The farmer who should year after year plant his corn, potatoes, etc., apply no manure, furnish no cultivation, yet expect to succeed in farming, harvest large crops, and get a good yearly profit in dollars and cents, and grumble because he did not and at last abandon the business, asserting that there was no profit in farming—furnishes a parallel case to the bee keeper who lets his bees shift for themselves, and then grumbles because they pay no profit, and at last abandons the business, asserting that there is no money in bee keeping. On my
plan bees show the greatest prosperity from being fed. My arrangement for feeding is the result of close study and experiment, and is perfect.

**Price of One Feeder ready for use, Two Dollars. Price of One Dozen Feeders ready for use, Twenty Dollars. They will be securely boxed and forwarded by Express or Freight as directed.**

**Honey in Glass Boxes.**

The Controllable Hive has a capacity for thirty-one three-pound glass boxes, or the same space may be filled with two-pound or one-pound boxes, or a part of each size may be used at the same time on the same Controllable Hive. Some prefer the large size, others the smaller. I find it very convenient to have honey in the three different sizes, to accommodate customers. The boxes are so arranged that the temperature is the same in the boxes as in the main hive; no partition to pass through, so the bees enter the boxes and commence work in them without hesitation. Honey in these boxes is very attractive, and is sought after in the market by everyone who has ever purchased in this form. Honey in these boxes shows its superior quality at a glance and will command the very highest price. I shall send one sample three-pound glass box, and one sample two-pound glass box with each Controllable Hive; the one-pound boxes are made the same as the two-pound boxes, only one-half the size, so no sample of that size will be required.

**Moveable Comb Frames.**

Six moveable comb frames occupy the central part of the Controllable Hive. The bees build their brood, and store combs in these frames. Each comb can be lifted out at any time without cutting or breaking the comb and without injury to a single bee. The combs in these moveable frames hold stores sufficient for the consumption of the bees and gives ample room for breeding. Here the bees rear their young. This part of the hive the bees occupy the year round, while the boxes are added only to secure the surplus honey in the summer season.
This engraving represents a comb in a moveable comb frame, containing all the different cells found in a hive. At the extreme right, near the bottom, is a queen cell complete, as it appears in queen raising, or in one week after a swarm has been deprived of its queen, in a full stock, or as it is found in stocks that swarm naturally, at the time the first swarm issues. Though often found in different places on the comb, and often to the number of a half dozen or more in one stock or hive, yet its relative position is always the same. It will always present the same appearance, whether at the edges or on other parts of the comb. Near the queen cell is seen the worker cells, containing brood in all stages of growth, from the tiny egg just deposited by the queen, to the full grown grub, or young bee.

**No Stings.**

Under my system of management, I by a simple process, subdue the anger of the bees, so that they can be handled without the least danger of stings. I subdue their disposition to sting, and render them for the time as harmless as flies, and this without the least injurious effects to the bees; after the effect of this treatment has passed off, they regain their former condition. By this process we remove our boxes from the hive as soon as they are filled, in the warmest weather; move comb, honey and bees altogether, from other hives.
to the Controllable Hive, and in short, handle them as we please, they show no disposition to sting.

I attend to the care of my bees, transferring comb, honey and bees from one hive to another; hive new swarms, remove boxes filled with honey and bees from the hives in the warmest days of July and August, all without any protection for the hands or face, without fear of stings.

The members of my family are seldom stung by the bees (not one case in a year) notwithstanding I sometimes have fifty hives or more where we pass within twenty feet of them many times every day, while the bees are flying in thousands about each hive. In the middle of the day in the honey season the air for many rods about the hives is full of bees. The county road passes within twenty feet of my hives, and some one is almost constantly passing, yet I never knew the bees to trouble any one. My hives have been thus situated for the last fifteen years. Bees when rightly managed are not likely to sting.

**Profit of Bees. Yield of Honey, etc.**

Twenty-five years ago, and even at the present time, by the ordinary methods of bee keeping, if a profit of $5 was gained from one hive of bees, in one season, it was considered "good luck." You know there is no system in the ordinary methods of bee keeping. It is either "good luck" or "bad luck"—all "luck" and "chance" any way.

In one year they get five dollars profit from a stock of bees; the next honey season they get nothing, and the bees all die in the winter; or perhaps they will survive that winter, and the next season swarm and fly away to the woods; or perhaps refuse to swarm, and remain idly clustered on the front of the hive throughout the entire honey season, and die for want of food before the winter is half gone.

With my Controllable Hive and Common Sense System of Bee Management, founded on correct and scientific principles, bee keeping is reduced to a science. There is no "luck," no "guess work," no "chance" about it. There can be no loss in bee keeping without a cause. A correct knowledge of the subject insures success.

I will now present a few statements, exhibiting the practical results which follow the use of my
Controllable Hive and New System of Bee Management, and showing the great contrast in profits and general success in the care of bees.

One hive yielded three hundred and eighty pounds of surplus honey, in glass boxes, in one season. This shows what is possible by liberal feeding, with a thrifty swarm of bees, giving them every facility, with a view of securing the largest possible amount of surplus box honey. In this case I selected in early spring the very best swarm I had, and pushed it as hard as possible throughout the entire spring, summer and early fall. My success exceeded even my most sanguine expectations. I will describe minutely the method pursued to secure this large and extraordinary yield: I commenced early in the spring to feed this swarm lightly but regularly, every day at evening. For a few days before the flowers were blooming profusely, I fed liberally—in fact gave them all I could possibly induce them to take up; the object being to get the store comb in the body of the hive not occupied with brood, completely filled with honey. The glass boxes (with feeder) were arranged in connection with the hives (sides and top) several weeks prior to the appearance of the flowers, that the bees might become accustomed to them, and the more readily enter them, and commence work. When I ceased feeding (which was on the appearance of the flowers yielding a good supply of honey,) the boxes were filled with bees and comb-building had commenced. The hive was, at this time, filled to overflowing with bees, and the combs had brood in all stages of growth, from the egg to the perfect bee. I had arranged so as to have no increase by swarming, but to have all the bees employed storing surplus honey in the boxes throughout the season.

I found on weighing the product of this hive in the fall, that they had given me a fraction over three hundred and eighty pounds of surplus honey in boxes. This honey I sold at thirty-five cents a pound, a little over one hundred and thirty-three dollars, for surplus honey sold from this one swarm.

In the season of 1880 one swarm in a Controllable Hive, in the month of June, yielded seventy-two pounds of surplus honey, in glass boxes. Another treated in the same manner, yielded over eighty pounds surplus in the same time.
Notwithstanding the season of 1885 was a very poor season for bees, yet my bees gave me a good profit in surplus honey, and I get very favorable reports from the bee keepers using the Controllable Hive.

The season of 1886 has been a good one, and bees in Controllable Hives here, and elsewhere, have done great things.

**Great Yield of Honey.**

In 1881 I had the largest yield of box honey from a young swarm of bees which ever came to my knowledge, and which I think hard to excel. July 1st, I hived a swarm of my Italian bees in the Controllable Hive. They showed superior industry even for the Italians, at the start. The 5th of July, finding the brood section of the hive nearly filled, I placed in connection therewith 26 glass honey boxes, at the sides and top. I never saw bees work with such vigor and determination. The 15th day of July, just ten days from the day the boxes were put on, I made an examination and found the 26 boxes well filled. They were removed and weighed, and found to contain a little more than one hundred and four pounds.

Here I desire to be clearly understood. I do not wish to hold out inducements which will never be realized, for the purpose of causing any one to commence bee keeping, with unreasonable expectations of profit. There is labor and care required to bring success in any enterprise. Bees give ample return for each little care and attention bestowed upon them; and if neglected and permitted to go uncared for, there is corresponding loss. I believe that bee-keeping should be encouraged, until bees enough are kept to collect the honey now allowed to go to waste, and which if collected, would add millions of dollars to the wealth of the country. Feed bees all they require for their own use, then we can secure nearly all they collect from flowers in Boxes for Profit.

**Transfer Your Bees.**

If you have bees in any patent or old style hives, be sure to move them into Controllable Hives for the honey season of 1887. It will pay you handsome to do so. Full instructions for transferring comb, honey and bees from other hives to Controll-
able Hives, will be found in my book, Bee Keeping for Profit.

I purchased a swarm of common bees in an old box hive; these bees had not given their owner a single dollar in profit for years; some seasons they would not swarm or make any surplus honey, but cluster idly on the outside of the hive in large numbers, while in other seasons they would swarm and fly away to the woods. I changed them into a Controllable Hive, fed them and gave them glass boxes for surplus honey, and they gave me the first season, over fifty dollars in surplus honey in glass boxes, and became a healthy, prosperous swarm. Care for your bees on common sense principles and they make liberal returns to you in nice honey. Again I say, move your bees into Controllable Hives.

The Controllable Bee Hive.

This engraving gives a correct view of the Controllable Hive. The capacity of the hive is a brood section, containing six movable comb frames holding stores for the use of the bees and for breeding purposes, and at sides and top are arranged the glass boxes for surplus honey. Thirty-one three-pound boxes, or instead of these we can use on the same hive, all two-pound boxes or all one-pound boxes or part of each size on the same hive. We can give the bees access to all the boxes at the same time, or to the side boxes only, or to fifteen, or to twenty-five, according to the strength and industry of the swarm.
It is for the interest of every person who has Bees to get them into Controllable Hives as soon as possible. Be sure to hive your new swarms in Controllable Hives the coming season, or if you are not fully convinced of the superiority of the Controllable Hive, try one swarm in it. I am certain if you give it a fair trial you will not put a swarm of bees in any other hive.

Beware of Counterfeits.

I wish to caution the public against persons who are offering hives for sale, claiming that they are the same as my Controllable Hive. Several have written me that they have been grossly imposed upon by this class.

Some claim to be my agents; others make no such claim, merely stating that they can furnish the Controllable Hive and all fixtures. All this is false, as I have no agents, and my book is protected by being copyrighted according to Act of Congress. The public will please take notice, that if they wish for the genuine Controllable Hive, with book giving full instructions in the New System of Bee Management they should send their orders direct to me.

Remember I employ no Agents.

PRICE OF HIVES READY FOR BEES.

I will furnish one Controllable Hive with two Sample Glass Honey Boxes (three and two pound) with the Book, Bee Keeping for Profit, all for Eight Dollars, or the Hive and Book with Feeder, ready for use, and full set of Three-pound Boxes, all ready for the Bees, all for Twelve Dollars.

The Hives are made from dry pine lumber, well fitted, thoroughly nailed and painted. They will be forwarded to any part of the country on receipt of price.
DRAWINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS
AND BOOK,
"BEE KEEPING FOR PROFIT."

These Drawings and Illustrations are executed on clear white paper, showing clearly all parts of the Controllable Hive, Feeder, Glass Honey Boxes, (small and large sizes) giving the measurements of all parts with clear explanation and position of the different parts. So that a carpenter or other person who understands the use of common tools, can construct the Controllable Hives and all fixtures with the certainty of getting everything right.

The Book, Bee Keeping for Profit, contains one hundred and fifty pages, well illustrated and teaches the New System of Bee Keeping clearly. With the Drawings, Illustrations and Book, any person of Intelligence can keep bees successfully, even if they have had no experience whatever in the care of bees.

By this arrangement of Drawings and Illustrations and Book, Bee Keeping for Profit, every one who desires, can secure the benefit of my inventions at small cost, no matter how great the distance they reside from me.

I will forward the Drawings and Illustrations and book, "Bee Keeping for Profit," postage paid, to any one on receipt of Four Dollars.

If you pay Four Dollars for Book and Drawings, and after that order bees in a Controllable Hive, or order an empty Controllable Hive, I will discount the sum paid ($4) from price of bees or hive, whichever you order.
Pure Blood Italian Bees.

GREATLY IMPROVED BY JUDICIOUS BREEDING.

My present stock of Italians cannot be surpassed for Beauty, Industry, and Mildness of Disposition. The Italians go seven miles or more in all directions from their hives to collect honey. These bees can be kept in Controllable Hives with good profit by every family that has a spot of land on which to set the hives.

The Pure Italian Bees are greatly superior to the Native in the following points, viz.: more hardy, they work in cool windy weather, when the Native bees are quiet in the hive, they are larger and swifter of flight, consequently they go the same distance quicker, and carry more honey at one time. So they collect honey faster; besides they collect honey from the red clover and many other flowers not accessible to the Native bees. They are very mild in disposition; and seldom offer to sting under ordinary management. They are very beautiful, being of a bright golden or straw color. They show greater activity in protecting their hives from the bee moth.

I consider the Pure Italian Bee a valuable and desirable acquisition. I have furnished several of my lady friends with colonies of them in Controllable Hives, and they express themselves very much pleased with their gentle disposition and great beauty and industry. A lady bought a swarm of Italian bees of me, and from that one she increased to over twenty swarms the third season, besides she got over one hundred pounds of nice honey from the swarm I sent her the first season.

The points of superiority here designated will be found in the Pure Italian Bee. Very many who have purchased bees purporting to be Italians, have been grossly deceived, having received simply a native swarm of bees, the queen of which, a pure native, having been impregnated by a drone having a slight tinge of Italian blood; such stock
was but very little, if any, better than a pure native swarm.

I find I can make great improvement even in the Italians, by rearing queens from such stocks as show superior industry, beauty, mildness of disposition, constitutional vigor in withstanding cold, etc., etc., and destroying all inferior queens from my stocks, and substituting such as I know by test are possessed of all the most desirable characteristics to the fullest degree. Again, at the time of mating my queens with the drones, I arrange to have large numbers of vigorous drones in my best stocks. This plan followed for a term of years will show marked results in the improvement of the desirable points of superiority found in the Italian bee.

I have here given in brief my views of the Italian bee, as I receive many letters of enquiry in regard to them. I base my statements on practical experience. I would advise all who wish to procure the Italian bees to exercise great care in selecting them, and purchase only of those who are known to have pure stocks; for the best is the cheapest in the end, no matter if the first cost seems high. If the worth of the money is in the bees, the higher the price paid, the better you will be satisfied. But do not pay even a low price for inferior stock, for you will not be satisfied.

A lady purchased one swarm of Italian Bees of me in the Spring of 1885. In November, 1886, she wrote me she had increased to twenty, all produced from the one she purchased of me. She is much pleased with her success.

In the spring of 1885 I selected from one hundred and forty swarms of Italian bees, eight swarms of average size. Each had a vigorous and prolific queen. I selected them with a view of increasing them to the fullest extent, by swarming on my plan, and securing as many good swarms for wintering as possible. I commenced feeding early but lightly. The entire cost of feeding the eight swarms did not exceed seventy-five cents per swarm, or six dollars for all. I find at this date (November 5th) that the eight swarms have increased to thirty-three swarms, all in fine condition to winter, besides I have taken from them over three hundred pounds of honey in glass boxes, nearly all of which is already sold at thirty cents per pound.

I take great pride in my Italian Bees. I believe they are as beautiful specimens of this variety as it is possible to produce, possessing the characteristics of superiority of the Italians in the fullest degree. The points which I strive to cultivate and develop fully, are industry, mildness of disposition, beauty of color, vigor of constitution, etc.

If you are just commencing to keep bees, be sure to commence with the pure Italian in Controllable Hives. Commence in spring with from two to six swarms, according to your means; the work required to take care of six swarms on my plan is but little more than that required for two, and the profit very much greater.

If you only wish to keep them to obtain honey for family use, two swarms will give you a full supply, but if you
wish to keep them for profit, six swarms is about right to start with, and spring the best time.

**PRICE OF PURE ITALIAN BEES.**

I will furnish One Full Swarm of Pure Italian Bees in Controllable Hive for Twenty Dollars, Two Swarms for Forty Dollars. All who order Bees will receive the Book, "Bee Keeping for Profit," and the Drawings and Illustrations, Free of further Cost.

I assure my customers that the Bees I offer are first-class in every respect.

For Thirty Dollars I will furnish One Swarm of Italian Bees in Controllable Hive, One Feeder ready for use, Book and Drawings and Illustrations and material for three Controllable Hives, and material for full set of Glass Boxes for each, except Glass.

The Bees I offer will be in Controllable Hives, the brood section filled with comb, honey and hatching brood well supplied with bees ready for work. Full swarms that have been wintered.

I guarantee the safe delivery of bees at any Express Office. No one need be prevented from obtaining these bees, no matter how great the distance they reside from me. I send them safely to the most distant part of the United States by Express.

The bees will be forwarded to the purchaser in the Spring of 1887. All orders will be booked as soon as received. If any orders are received after the bees are all engaged the money will be returned by next mail.

Order these beautiful bees in Controllable Hives, they will please you.

Every bee keeper should secure my improvements for the season of 1887. I GUARANTEE EVERYTHING AS REPRESENTED.
HOW TO SEND MONEY.

Send Money in Registered Letter to West Gorham, Maine, or send Money Order drawn on Gorham, Maine. This is the nearest Money Order Office.

(Be sure not to send a Money Order drawn on West Gorham, for it is not a Money Order Office.) Address all orders to

Mrs. LIZZIE E. COTTON,
WEST GORHAM, (Cumberland County,) MAINE.

Order early so as to have everything ready for the Honey Harvest of 1887.

REFERENCES.

That the public may have positive assurance that I will fulfill all I promise, I refer to the following. (If you write them, expecting a reply, be sure to enclose stamp for return postage.)

[From Hon. FREDERICK ROBIE, Governor of Maine.]

GORHAM, ME., Dec. 6th, 1886.

I have used, during the past Season, at my home in Gorham, a number of Mrs. Cotton's Controllable Bee Hives, which were obtained by me, from her manufactory. I desire to say that my success in their use confirms what has been said by others in their favor, and I do not hesitate to recommend the benefits of Mrs. Cotton's long experience and instructions in Bee keeping and her Controllable Bee Hive to all who desire to make Bee keeping pleasant and profitable. FREDERICK ROBIE.

[From H. R. COLESWORTHY, Post Master, W. Gorham, Me.]

I hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton, and know her to be an extensive and successful Bee Keeper. I have lived a neighbor to Mrs. Cotton for several years, and I believe her to be honest in all her dealings. H. R. COLESWORTHY.
[From Mrs. Fannie M. Grant.]


In the spring of 1884 I bought a swarm of Italian bees of Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton. The bees reached me in fine condition. In their management I carried out Mrs. Cotton's instructions to the letter. The bees worked splendidly. They gave me one nice large swarm and a little more than forty-five pounds of nice honey in glass boxes, which I took from the hive, leaving them enough for winter use. As the frost came very early, I fed the new swarm a little to get them in good shape for winter. Notwithstanding the unusual severity of the winter, both swarms came out nicely in the spring, and the present season they have increased to six. I have sold one, have five more. I have taken out eight well filled glass boxes for home use, and all the hives, excepting the last swarm, have honey in their glass boxes. I have not taken it out yet, preferring to wait until October.

Considering this has been the coldest, wettest summer we have had for years, I think my bees have done nobly. I wonder more people don't keep bees. And I wonder that anybody should try to keep them without the "Controllable Hive" and Mrs. Cotton's "New System of Bee Keeping." I visited Mrs. Cotton at her home last June and found everything just as she represents it, and I am satisfied that she honestly tries to do right by all her customers.

MRS. FANNY M. GRANT.

[From Mrs. Mary G. Williams, No. 28 Highland Park Ave.]

ROXBURY, MASS., Sept. 30, 1885.

Having now kept bees with excellent success for nearly two years, in accordance with Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton's "New System of Bee Management," using her Controllable Hive which cannot be surpassed in simplicity and excellence, I take pleasure in earnestly recommending all who wish to begin bee keeping to purchase her beautiful Italian bees in Controllable Hives, which only need to be tried to convince any one of their superiority—and judging from my own experience, I can assure all who deal with Mrs. Cotton, the most prompt and generous treatment.

MRS. MARY G. WILLIAMS.

Mrs. Williams writes under date of November 21st, 1886:

I have been very successful this season. I have obtained upwards of eighty-four pounds of delicious honey in glass boxes from one Controllable Hive in the month of June alone.

MRS. MARY G. WILLIAMS.

[From Emma E. Cole.]

DELTA, COLORADO, Nov. 10, 1886.

In June, 1886, I received of Mrs. Lizzie E. Cotton, West Gorham, Maine, a swarm of her Italian bees with directions for keeping them on her plan. They came by express in good condition, and we were much pleased
with the golden beauties, their industry and docility. We found no difficulty in handling them, which was a large item with us being novices in the business. Our success has been very encouraging. We have two nice swarms from the one and 65 lbs. of fine honey in boxes.

From Maine to Colorado seems a long distance to transport bees, but as Mrs. Cotton understands her business thoroughly they came in good order. Her plan of bee keeping cannot be too highly recommended. It is one of the triumphs of the present day. We expect to be able to show a better record the coming season as we will be better acquainted with the plan of management.

EMMA E. COLE.

[From Henry Butler.]

DOUGLASS BUTLER Co., KANSAS, Nov. 2, 1886.

In the winter of 1885 I saw Mrs. Cotton's bee advertisement, received her circular and sent her $4.00 for Book and Drawings which I received promptly. I then sent to her for a swarm of her Italian bees. They came with dispatch by express, and were exactly what she represented them to be. The bees reached me in just six days from date of shipment. They arrived the 10th day of May, the next day I looked the bees over, lifted out each frame of comb with the bees adhering, held them up before my face and examined closely, they were beauties. I had no protection for face or hands, yet not one bee offered to sting. In handling the bees I followed Mrs. Cotton's instructions. Before this I was as afraid of bees as I was of rattlesnakes. I have followed Mrs. Cotton's instructions to the letter as given in her book, "Bee Keeping for Profit," and success has crowned my efforts, at least I think so, for I have six as fine swarms of bees from the one she sent me as any one could wish for. The first one that came out filled the brood section in just eight days. Any one not acquainted with Mrs. Cotton's Italian bees and plan of management would have thought the bees were swarming, they worked with such determination. It has been a very dry season here. I purchased two swarms of bees from a gentleman here, purporting to be Italians,—he never has been to my place,—he asked me if I could see any difference in the bees I got of him and the bees I got of Mrs. Cotton. I told him the difference was as marked as the color of a negro and a white man; that the bees I obtained of Mrs. Cotton were as yellow as gold and much larger than his, and they were so very gentle, something I could not say of his.

I followed Mrs. Cotton's plan as laid down in her book, and I transferred the warriors I obtained from the gentleman, to Controllable Hives. I corralled them in the twinkling of an eye as it were. I carried the Langstroth Hives (a thing called a bee hive) that the bees were in, into my house in the midst of my family of seven members, and transferred the bees, comb and honey from the old hives to Controllable Hives, and we never got a sting.
I take out division boards, put on and take off boxes, etc., etc., without protection for hands or face and have no fear of stings. This is what I have learned by patronizing Mrs. Cotton. I now have twelve swarms of bees, six the Italian beauties that I sent to the State of Maine for. One hundred and twenty dollars would not buy the six swarms to-day.

I have 400 pounds of honey in glass boxes, as poor as the season has been. Next season I expect to obtain 4600 lbs. at least, and increase my stock of bees to near 50.

I am highly pleased with my success with bees, all of which I owe to Mrs. Cotton.

HENRY BUTLER.

I might give the testimony of many others, all of the same import, but these are sufficient to prove the great merit of my Controllable Hive, Italian Bees, New System of Bee Management and my responsibility.

ALL STATEMENTS, FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, CHARGING ME WITH FRAUD OR DECEPTION IN ANY FORM, ARE WHOLLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION. I CHALLENGE INVESTIGATION. I have been in business here at West Gorham for more than twelve years. Every intelligent person knows that if I was engaged in a fraudulent business the laws would not permit me to continue from year to year.

All statements against me come from persons interested in other hives, or persons employed by them. This class is resorting to every means in its power to deceive the public and keep bee keepers from adopting my plan of bee keeping. They are full of wrath because I, a woman, have succeeded in inventing a Bee Hive and System of Bee Management, superior to any yet produced, and which is fast coming into use, and other hives and methods are being thrown aside. This hurts the feelings of many, and they attack me through the public journals, and especially the bee journals whenever opportunity offers. But in all my business transactions I intend to be guided by the Golden Rule, viz.: Do by others as I wish others to do by me.

If you do not receive just what you order, write me, for I warrant everything ordered to reach the purchaser, and to be as represented in this circular.
WHOLESALE PRICE LIST.

As many of my customers will find it cheaper and for their interest to obtain their Controllable Hives, Glass Honey Boxes, Feeders, etc., of me, I have made arrangements for manufacturing, so I can furnish at the following prices, viz.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Controllable Hives, per doz.</td>
<td>$42.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>half</td>
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<td></td>
<td>fourth</td>
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*No discount from these prices.*

(I will send the Book free to all who order Hives.)

This price includes all the material for the Hives and all the material for the Boxes (except glass), got out ready to nail together, securely packed and shipped as freight at lowest rates of transportation to any part of the United States or Canada.

*Not less than Three Hives sold at these prices.*

FEEDERS READY FOR USE, BOXED AND SHIPPED AS FREIGHT:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Per Dozen,</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per One-half Dozen,</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per One-fourth</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
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GLASS HONEY BOXES, all the material (except glass) ready to brad together, Six Dollars per One Hundred Three Pound Boxes.

I recommend the three pound boxes in preference to all others after a trial of smaller and larger sizes.

All parts of Hives, Boxes, etc., are got out of good Pine Lumber by machinery with steam power. Any piece or part of a Hive will fit the corresponding part of any other Controllable Hive. One dozen Hives got out in this way and put together makes every part of the dozen hives interchangeable one with the other. Thus Brood Frames, Glass Honey Boxes, Feeders, Honey Boards, Box Frames, etc., etc., may be taken from one Hive and put into another, and will fit well. This is a very important point in managing the bees, and is seldom attained to perfection when the material for Hives is got out and put together by an ordinary carpenter.

A person of average skill with tools will take the material for Hives as I furnish it, and put together ready for receiving the Bees, One Dozen Controllable Hives in one day.

Order your material early so as to get your Hives and Boxes ready for the Bees before the hurry of Spring work.
Please notice the difference in Size and beauty of the Italian Bees over the Native or Black Bees. In desirable points of character the difference is still greater, the Italians being more industrious, milder in disposition, more hardy in withstanding severe cold, etc., etc.

NATIVE, OR BLACK BEES.

I will furnish a swarm of these Native Bees, in Controllable Hive, with Drawings and Illustrations and Book, all for Fourteen Dollars.

Please send me the address of your friends—bee keepers and others—and I will send them my circular.

Mrs. LIZZIE E. COTTON,
WEST GORHAM,    MAINE.