

THE BLESSED BEES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649075164

The Blessed Bees by John Allen

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JOHN ALLEN

**THE
BLESSED BEES**

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BY

JOHN ALLEN

NEW YORK
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
182 FIFTH AVENUE
1879

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P R E F A C E.

THIS record of a year's work gives the experiences and results of my beginning in a business which is to me a constant pleasure, and the source of a good income. Bee-keeping, by old methods, was believed to be ruled by chance; the bee-keeper who had good luck obtained some honey from his hives by the slaughter of his bees over the brimstone pit; the bee-keeper who had bad luck found himself, sooner or later, the owner of a beggarly array of empty hives. Bee-keeping, by modern methods, depends not upon luck but upon knowledge; it is an art just as much as growing wheat or fruit or stock; the profits which may be gained from it are just as certain as the profits from any other branch of rural labor, and are much larger.

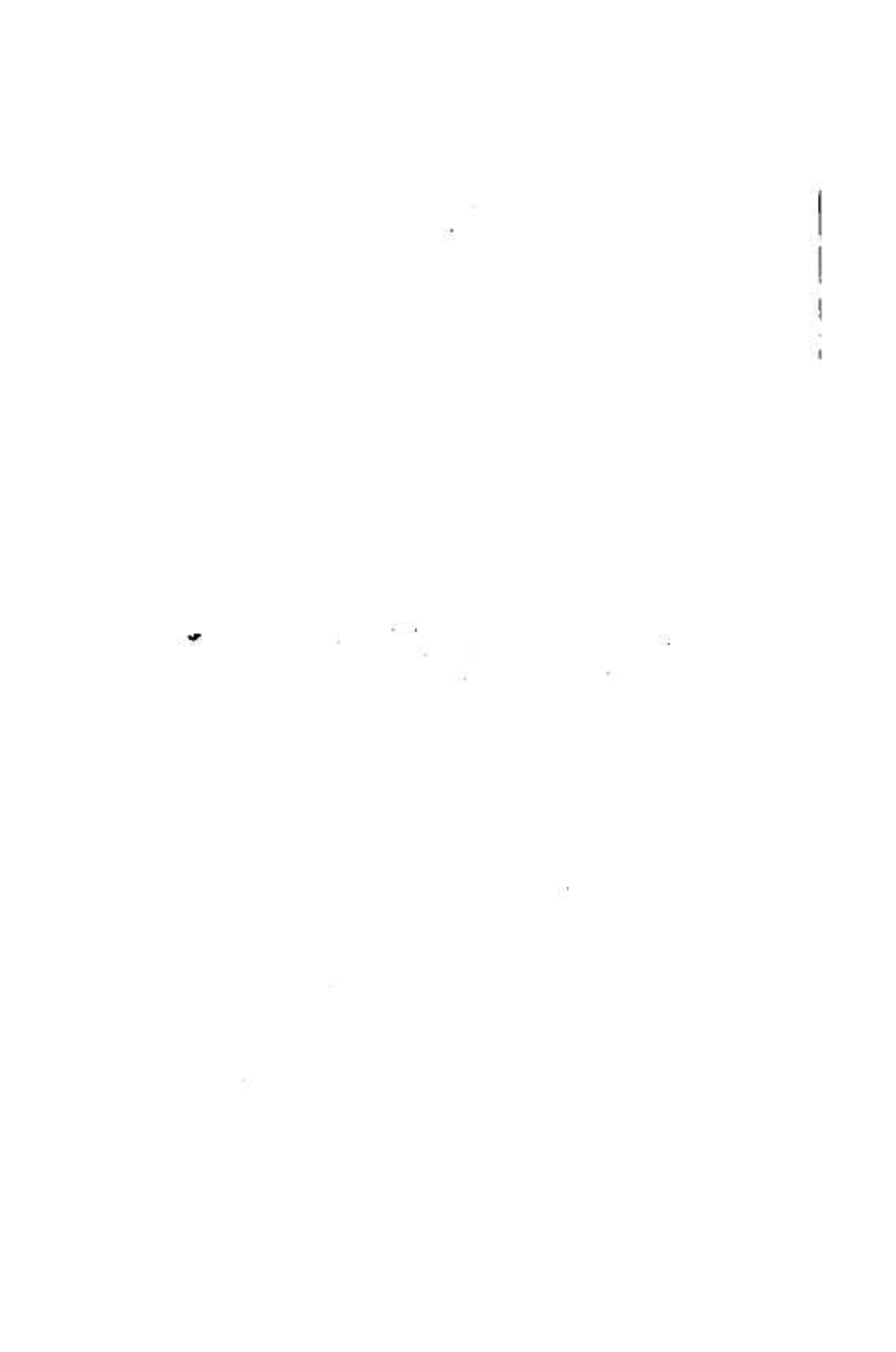
To write these chapters has been to me a labor of love. I hope they may serve in some measure to diffuse a knowledge of bee-culture, and to call attention to its pleasures and its profits.

JOHN ALLEN.

LINNSWICK, MARCH 11, 1878.

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THE BLESSED BEES.

I.

CLOUD.

MY room was No. 14 in the old boarding hall, just at the head of the first flight of stairs. I stood at the window watching for the mail-boy, who was much later than usual that night. For an hour he had been due. It was a long and weary hour to me, during which study had been impossible. After what seemed an endless time I heard his step coming by the college. I forced myself to sit down quietly at the table. The boy would distribute the mail in the steward's rooms below in a few minutes, and as he came up stairs my room was first. I should soon know if there was a message for me. No news would be good news. I listened eagerly and soon heard his step on the stair. Would he pass my door? I hoped so, fervently. He came on. He stopped and knocked. He had something