

**THE PRACTICAL BEE-KEEPER; OR,  
CONCISE AND PLAIN  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE  
MANAGEMENT OF BEES AND  
HIVES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649677511

The Practical Bee-Keeper; Or, Concise and Plain Instructions for the Management of Bees and Hives by John Milton

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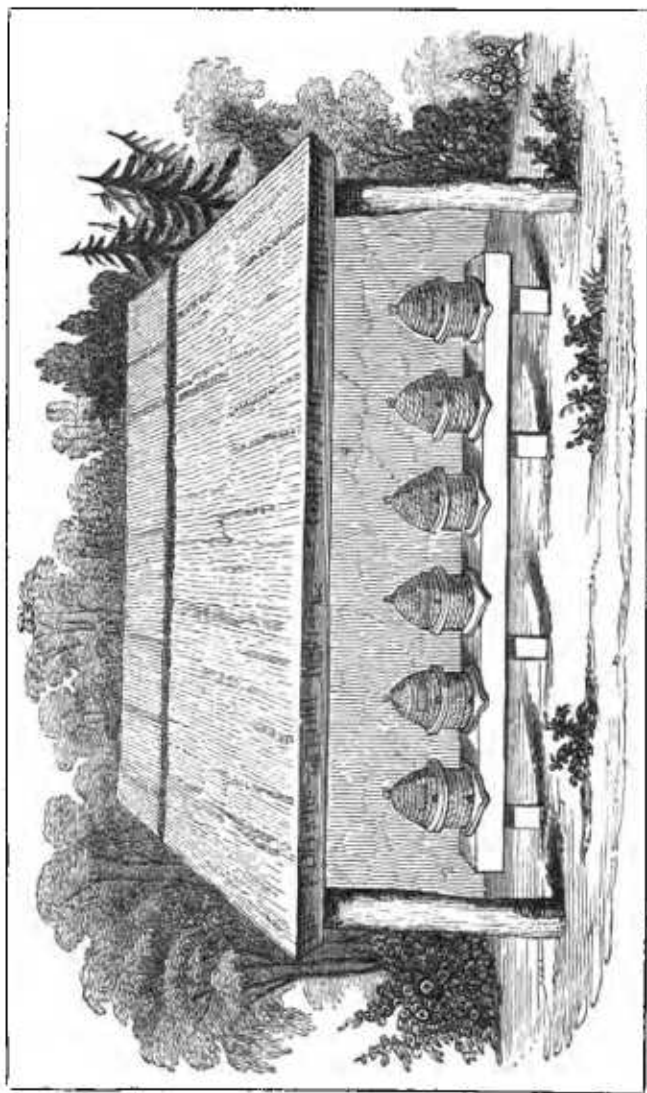
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**JOHN MILTON**

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A Rustic Shed for Bees: or, an Apiary of small Cost.

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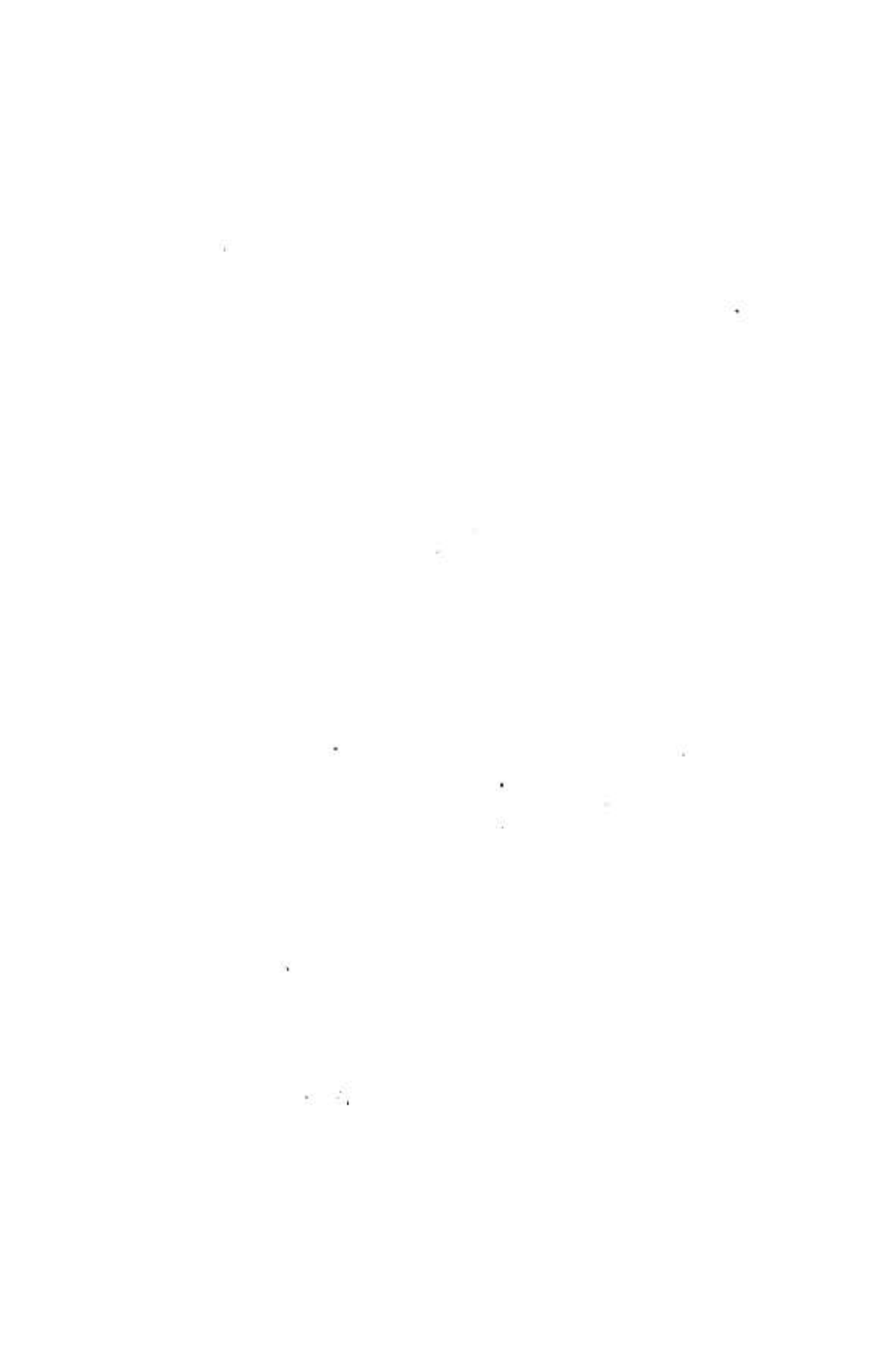


BY JOHN MILTON.

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LONDON:  
JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

M.DCCC.XLIII.



# CONTENTS.

## INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE
General Contents.—Object of the Author.—A New Hive. —Ancient and Modern Writers on Bees.—Sir Christopher Wren's Hive.—Inversion of Hives.— Method of Study . . . . .	1

## CHAPTER I.

Importance of the Bee to Man ; its three Sexes ; its Sting.—Age of Bees ; their Instincts and Social Virtues.—Temperature of Hive.—Employments of Bees ; their mode of taking Rest.—Cells of Comb.— Retinue of Queen.—Transformation of Eggs and Larvæ.—Artificial Feeding.—Site for Apiary.—Sea- son for the establishment of an Apiary.—Advice to the Buyers of Bees.—Removal of Stocks.—Method of uniting Swarms.—Pasturage for Bees.—Swarming. —Honey.—Bee-Bread.—Importation of Wax and Honey . . . . .	5
--	---

## CHAPTER II.

On Hives in general.—The Common Straw Hive.— Enemies of Bees.—Straw Hive with Revolving Top.—The Box Hive with Interior Boxes.—An improved Huber's or Leaf Hive . . . . .	22
--	----

## CHAPTER III.

Miniature Apiary.—Unicomb Observatory Hive.—Sto- rified Bee-Boxes.—White's Collateral Hive.—Pre- vention of Swarming.—The Moreton Hive.— Hexagon Hives.—Mr. Thorley's Octagons . . . . .	38
---	----



## CHAPTER IV.

	PAGE
The New American Hive.—The Huish Hive.—The Grecian Hive.—Letter by Sir Christopher Wren, on the Transparent Bee-Hive.—Box Feeder.—Fountain Bee-Feeder.—Round Bee-Feeder.—Fumigating Boxes and Bellows . . . . .	53
The Patent Bar and Frame Bee-Hive . . . . .	66

## PART II.

Short Extracts from Writers on Bees . . . . .	67
Conclusion . . . . .	134

## APPENDIX.

A List of Ancient Authors upon Bee-Hives, Bees, and their Productions . . . . .	139
A Chronological List of Books and Writers upon the Bee	141

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THE  
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INTRODUCTION.

GENERAL CONTENTS.—OBJECT OF THE AUTHOR.—A NEW HIVE.—ANCIENT AND MODERN WRITERS ON BEES.—SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN'S HIVE.—INVERSION OF HIVES.—METHOD OF STUDY.

THE following pages contain a few concise and plain instructions for the management of Bees and Hives; my object being to state with clearness the easiest and most useful method, in the hope of promoting a general improvement in the cultivation, and preservation, of these valuable and interesting insects. My apology for adding my name to those of the many learned men who have written upon bees is the great interest I feel in the subject, as well as a desire to make an endeavour to promote bee culture.

Amongst other matters, I have introduced and described a new bee-hive. The inventor, an American, visited me several times during his stay in England. His hive has a peculiar shape, and a singularly con-

structed entrance, from both of which I consider we shall be able to effect advantageous changes in our English hives. I have also given numerous extracts from writers on bees, and a list of authors, ancient and modern, with which I have taken much pains in order to render it correct. Nevertheless I doubt not but there will be found omissions. The names of the ancients I have placed alphabetically; the more modern writers chronologically, which I considered would be the most simple arrangement.

Great was the interest that was entertained for these insects in ancient times. "Aristomachus, it is said, studied bees during sixty years. Philliscus retired into a desert wood, that he might have an opportunity of observing them to better advantage. Aristotle made a great number of curious observations on this insect, which Virgil put into Latin verse. These observations were enlarged and confirmed by Pliny and others. Theophrastus wrote upon the bee. Among the moderns the number of writers who have treated on bees is very great;" an evidence also of the interest which they excite at the present time. The University of Oxford, at a very early period, produced minds actively engaged in the study of bees, and continues to furnish a number of individuals, who delight in the same researches. It is generally thought that Dr. Charles Butler, of Magdalen College, was the first English author on bees.