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THE COTTAGE BEE KEEPER: OR SUGGESTIONS  
FOR THE PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT OF  
AMANTENR, COTTAGE AND FARM APIARIES,  
ON SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES, WITH AN  
APPENDIX OF NOTES, CHIEFLY ILLUSTRATIVE**

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Saxton's Cottage and Farm Library. The Cottage Bee Keeper: Or Suggestions for the Practical Management of Amantenr, Cottage and Farm Apiaries, on Scientific Principles, with an Appendix of Notes, Chiefly Illustrative by Philip Valpy Mourant Filleul & C. M. Saxton

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**PHILIP VALPY MOURANT FILLEUL & C. M. SAXTON**

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THE

COTTAGE BEE KEEPER;

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THE PRACTICAL MANAGEMENT

OF

Amateur, Cottage and Farm Apiaries,

ON SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES.

WITH AN

APPENDIX OF NOTES, CHIEFLY ILLUSTRATIVE.

BY A COUNTRY CURATE.

1857



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### ADVERTISEMENT.

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The subscriber takes great pleasure in offering the present little volume, as the first of the series, entitled "**Saxton's Farm and Cottage Library,**" to the patronage of the public, in the belief that it will satisfy all the reasonable expectations of the American bee keeper, who, it is hoped, will derive many a useful hint in this interesting branch of knowledge, and will be amply remunerated for his pains.

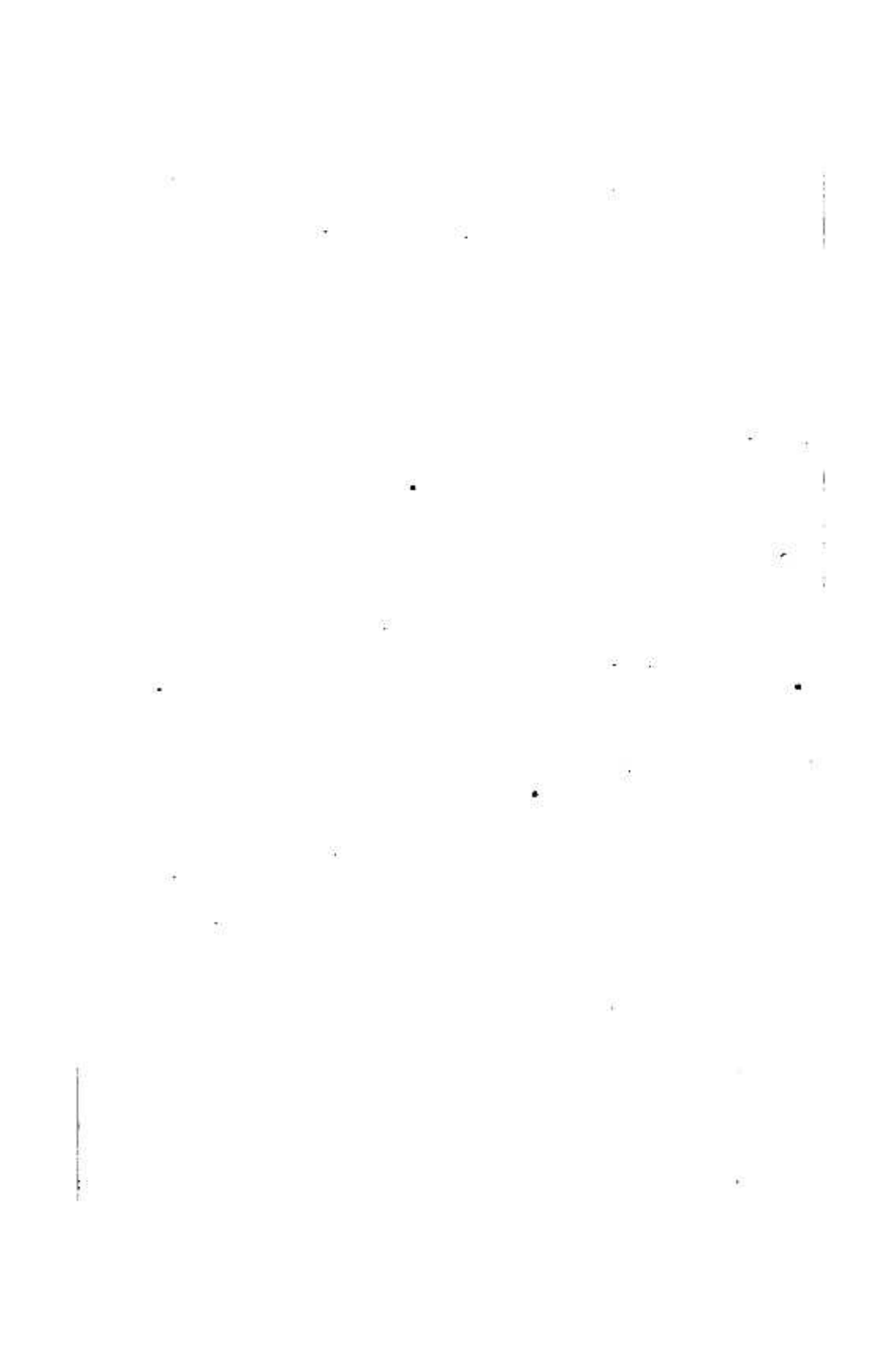
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## P R E F A C E .

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It will naturally be expected by every one who hears of the publication of a new work on bees—in the face of the many excellent treatises already extant, some of which have opened to us many marvels in the natural history, while others have facilitated the profitable management, of these wonderful insects—either that the adventurous author has something new to add to the common stock of already acquired knowledge upon the subject, or that he has, at least, some satisfactory reasons to allege for intruding himself upon public notice; seeing that to write a book, for which there is no vacant place on the library shelf of the apiarian reader, must undoubtedly be considered a work of no little folly and presumption. Respecting, as he does, this attitude of very natural expectation on the part of the public, the author of the ensuing pages would submit the following observations to the consideration of the candid reader.

In the first place, there is no one but will readily allow that our knowledge of bees, scientific or practical, however it may have increased of late years, is still limited; or that there is at least room for improvement. If this admission be made, it at once follows that there is room for a new work on the subject, however the apiarian's library may seem at first sight to be complete without it.

The author hopes that so much of novelty will be found in his book

as shall distinguish it from every antecedent bee book, stamp it with an identity of its own, and make it interesting and acceptable even to the old-established bee keeper. While, however, some matters in this book are undoubtedly new, (whether suggestions originating with, or discoveries and improvements made by, himself,) the author having made a free use of every available theory, suggestion, or practice, (from whatever quarter it came,) it follows that the greater part of the volume is old matter, however it may have assumed a new shape. His aim has been, *first*, to recommend a more systematic, and at the same time improved, method of cottage bee management than at present prevails; and, *secondly*, to invite the attention of amateurs to his own peculiar plan of managing bees on scientific principles, founded on the considerable experience of nearly eight years, assisted by much thought on the subject; and he believes there are many persons, who, after a due consideration and trial of the system, (artificial though it may appear,) will approve of it as being both simple and effectual, and perhaps better calculated than most other systems, (in the hands of an attentive and intelligent bee keeper,) to give satisfaction, as well on the ground of economy as of profit.

The fact is, although it may be said with reason that there never was a time in the whole history of bee-keeping, at least in this country, when the pursuit has numbered so many votaries as at the present moment—and certainly never did success promise so well to the lover of bees, thanks to the facility with which every kind of information on the subject is diffused through the medium of the press—the author believes that the science of practical bee management is yet but imperfectly developed after all, compared with what it may yet become, if our apiarians will only give it the time and attention which it deserves. No practical results, for instance, have proceeded from, at all commensurate with, the splendid discoveries of Huber, Réaumur, and Shirach, relative to the natural history of the bee; and yet

their revelations supply sufficient data upon which a highly scientific treatment of bees might be established. In this little work will be found an attempt to bring our higher knowledge upon the subject to bear upon, and improve, the system of bee management actually in vogue among us.

The few wood cuts, it is hoped, will sufficiently answer their purpose of helping out the instructions of the text. If it be complained that they are somewhat rude and primitive, the fault is to be attributed to circumstances, not to intention.

Other bee authors, in drawing their labors to a conclusion, have thought it well to solicit the favor of *ingenuous criticism*;—following in their steps, as considering that many still hidden truths may yet be evoked by a spirit of candid inquiry, tending to throw valuable light on the subject of these pages, the author would also invite the same.

March 20th, 1861.