

mit „verkrüppelte Kinder und viel Schläg' vom Mann, dass sie bald sterben sollt', und zwar ein schlechtes Ende.“ Die Unterhaltung ist zerstört und in einem traurigen Ende geh'n alle nach Hause. (Aber es is nur a Hetz.)

Nach der Erzählung eines in Grundbach bei Aspern (Niederösterreich) anässigen, mit mir gleichzeitig im Heere (K. u. K. F. J. B. Nr. 21) stehenden Müllersohnes Rinxner.

Die Zusätze in den Anmerkungen ebenfalls von Rinxner. Dieselbe Hochzeitssitte wurde mir bestätigt aus dem Bezirke Ober-Hollabrunn in Niederösterreich.

7. Bienenzauber und Bienenzucht.

Mittheilung von C. O. Boije of Gennäs in Stockholm.

XX. The peasantry in some parts of England have curious superstitions regarding bees. A poor old widow once complained to a gentleman that all her stock of bees had died; and on enquiring, he was informed that on the death of her husband a short time previously she had neglected to tap at each of the hives, to give information to the bees of that sad event; that, in consequence of this mission, they had been gradually getting weaker and weaker; and that now she had not one left. This may be supposed to have been a solitary instance of superstition, but such is by no means the case, as it will be very generally found that on the death of a cottager who has kept bees some ceremonious observance takes place. The late Mr. London mentions that when he was in Bedfordshire, he was informed of an old man who sung a psalm in front of some hives which were not doing well, but which he said would thrive in consequence of that ceremony. This may be a local or individual superstition, but the announcement to the bees of the death of the owner is certainly a more general one. In Norfolk, at places where bees are kept, it is an indispensable ceremony, in case of the death of any of the family, to put the bees in mourning, or the consequence, would be that all of them would die. The person who made the assertion mentioned a case in point where, from the neglect of this caution, every bee in the apiary had perished. This method of putting them in mourning is by attaching a piece of black cloth to each of the hives. In the neighbourhood of Coventry, in the event of the death of any of the family, it is considered necessary to inform the bees of that circumstance otherwise they will pine away and die. The manner of communicating the intelligence to the little community is, with due form and ceremony, to take the key of the house and knock with it three times against the hive, informing the inmates at the same time that their master or mistress, as the case may be, is dead. A similar custom prevails in Kent; and in some places it is considered expedient to communicate any news of importance that may have occurred to these industrious insects.

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