

showed Barnaby Googe's *Whole Art and Trade of Husbandry* (1614) with its section "entreating of bees"; and William Cobbett's *Cottage Economy* (1838). The modern classics, such as Maeterlinck's *Life of The Bee*, Fabre's *Bramble Bees*, Ticknor Edwardes's *Beemaster of Warrilow*, and Michelet's *The Insect* took their rightful places.

Some attractive illustrated versions of Æsop's Fables, such as Barlow's of 1687 and Bewick's of 1820, together with several engravings of old skeps and coloured honey flowers in old herbals, added interest to the cases.

Imagination was allowed a little sway by admitting John Oxenham's *Bees in Amber*, Bernard Mandeville's *Fable of The Bees*, and *Wings and Stings, a Tale for The Young*, by A.L.O.E. (1895). Here also we placed White's *Natural History of Selborne* for its reference to the simpleton whose obsession was bees, and Mary Webb's *Gone to Earth* for its intimate glimpse of the mystic regard of the countryman for his bees.

The exhibit contained many other items, but these notes will suffice to show the interest and value of such a collection, a worthy memorial to the wife of its donor.

A BOSWELL LETTER

AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF JAMES BOSWELL'S, presented to the Library by Mr. David Strang of Auckland, has particular interest for Australasia. It was purchased by Mr. Strang at an auction sale in Wellington of material from the library of Mr. Johannes C. Andersen. Its earlier history is not recorded. It is expressed to be written from Great Portland Street on 10th August, 1792, and is addressed to Sir Evan Nepean, at that time a Commissioner of the Privy Seal.

The circumstances under which it was written commence with the conviction in 1787 of one Mary Braund for assisting her future husband to escape from gaol. She was sentenced to transportation, and transported to Botany Bay. Thence she, her convict husband William Bryant (they were married immediately on landing), their two children, and six other convicts.