

3. Samples of the silk obtained from the cocoons after being boiled with water containing soap, and subsequently alkali.

4. Samples of the spun thread and woven fabrics of different degrees of fineness.

The Doctor's information was further to the effect that the cheap clothing for the great mass of the immense population of the Chinese Empire is made of *this Ailanthus silk*.

It has always been a matter of surprise that *all* the paper, including the wrappings and casings of teas, silks, fire crackers, &c., imported from China should be made from silk. The inquiry naturally arises, what becomes of their linen and cotton rags? It is, however, solved by the fact above stated.

The information thus far obtained forced a belief that this insect will enable us to introduce an entirely new branch of industry to the agricultural community, of vast importance. Desiring, however, all additional information that could be obtained, I took measures to procure from Paris whatever was to be had upon the subject, and received several interesting publications. The most important of these consist of a copy of the official report to the Emperor, by M. Guirin De Meneville, (by whom this important insect was first introduced into France,) and a brochure containing minute directions for the management of the whole operation of producing the Ailanthus silk.

This learned gentleman continues to devote his attention to this most important subject by direction of the present enlightened Emperor of France.

His imperial Majesty has manifested a deep interest in this as in every thing useful to agriculture, and has ordered extensive plantations of Ailanthus to be made in each of his numerous farms. It may not be generally known in this country, but I believe it to be a fact that the present Emperor is not only the most extensive farmer in France, but he is the best farmer in Europe. I could give abundant evidence of this if the limits of this report would admit.

After reflecting as to the best mode for introducing this branch of industry among us, I brought it to the notice of the chief of the Agricultural Bureau of the U. S. Patent Office, (Mr. Newton,) who promptly opened a correspondence with the American minister at Paris upon my suggestion.

There is no doubt, from the known liberality of the Emperor, that he will direct an ample supply of cocoons, to be furnished to commence this branch of industry in our own country.

Knowing that my friend, the Rev. Dr. John G. Morris, has made the order of insects to which the Bombyx belongs, an especial study, I referred to him all the documents received from Paris. He has made up from them and handed to me a very interesting account of the Ailanthus silk-worm, which I present below.

A more comprehensive paper upon this subject has been furnished by Dr. Morris for the forthcoming report of the Patent Office, by request of Mr. Newton, chief of the Agricultural Bureau.