

The *Ailanthus* is of easy culture, it grows every where, even in the sand and the most infertile soil, where nothing else that is profitable can be raised.

When once planted it cannot be destroyed, so rapid and vigorous is its growth.

The silk-worm which feeds on its leaves is not less vigorous and enduring, neither wind, nor rain, nor any thing else can make it quit the leaf it is devouring nor the cocoon it is spinning.

The open air is necessary to it; it wants no costly nursery-houses; it lives on the tree itself, not on gathered leaves, and requires no manual labor and very little care.

The silk which it produces is less brilliant than that of the mulberry worm, but it is strong, more durable, and easily takes colors. It is a kind of raw silk, and holds a middle place between wool and silk.

Produced *in the open air, and nearly without expense*, this material, which is called *Ailantine*, will be of a very low price; it will serve for the fabrication of various articles of clothing.

The *Ailantine* will be the silk of the middle classes; it will not interfere with the silk of the mulberry, which will continue to be the silk of luxury.

The principal advantages resulting from the cultivation of the *Ailanthus* and its silk-worm can be thus summed up:

Grounds uncultivated, and of little value, can be brought into use and rendered productive.

A very remunerative product can be obtained with little expense and labor.

It will supply the deficiency of silk.

It will diminish the importation of cotton.

It will produce on our own soil what we now get from abroad in exchange for our gold.

It will secure for all classes of society solid, comfortable and low-priced articles of apparel.

The above is a summary of the results of three years' experience in France in producing the *Ailantine*, as the French call this textile material. During this period the millions of cocoons have sprung from the few that M. Guerin De Meneville introduced into France from Turin in 1857, and it is fairly established as a branch of productive industry. One gentleman alone, the Comte Lamotte De Baracee, raised 300,000 cocoons during the summer of 1860. The results of 1861 have not yet reached me. More than a year ago at least one establishment existed in Paris for the purchase of the *Ailantine*, which is eagerly desired by the silk manufacturers of Lyons, so that a market is already opened for it.

It is found that it can be readily spun with machinery similar to that used for cotton, and it is worked into fabrics either alone and in combination with cotton, flax or wool.