

In taking climate into consideration we have a right to expect the Ailanthus worm to succeed even better with us than in France. The Empire of China and the United States happen to be embraced within the same parallels of latitude, and the climates of both countries are very similar, whilst the climates of France and the rest of Western Europe differ materially from those of China and our own country.

We know that the Ailanthus is completely naturalized and grows most luxuriantly in even the poorest and driest soils, and no plant can be more cheaply raised.

The London Gardener's Chronicle states that Count Lambert, the great land proprietor of Odessa, on the Black Sea, after having failed for sixteen years in fixing the blowing sands on his estate, at last succeeded perfectly with the Ailanthus. M. Guerin De Meneville informs "that measures are now being taken to introduce the Ailanthus silk among the plantations."

Since Dr. Morris has directed his attention to this subject he is satisfied that we have at least three native species of Bombyx, whose silk the doctor believes will prove available. The cocoons are much larger than those made by the Chinese insect, and the worm is equally rustic and adapted to living in the open air. They are by no means particular as to the kind of leaves they feed on, being well satisfied with those of the brier, and of the oak and other kinds of trees.

The doctor, who feels a deep interest in the matter, has secured a large number of cocoons, with which he and others will experiment during the coming summer, especially in regard to the cheapest mode of supplying them with food.

There is no doubt whatever of the great industrial value of the Ailantine silk, especially for the purpose of being manufactured into the clothing for the masses, which must be cheap as well as durable.

The only labor required is the following :

1st. To plant the Ailanthus either from the seed or using young plants.

2d. To cut them down every spring.

3d. To keep the ground clean, and prevent the shoots from spreading by the cultivator or the plow.

4th. As soon as the leaves appear in May the eggs are to be exposed to the proper temperature for hatching on small wooden trays, which are to be supported along the hedges.

After this nothing further is to be done but to gather the cocoons, (of which there are two crops a season,) and sell them. There is already a market for them in France, and there will soon be one with us.

Mr. John Feast, of Baltimore, has authorized me to state that he will furnish packets of Ailanthus seeds gratuitously to those who may desire to prepare for raising the *B. Cynthia*.