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Miscellaneous.

From the Democratic Press.

Extracts from the works of Count Dandolo on the art of rearing SILK WORMS, translated from the Italian; London edition of 1825—published for the British, Irish and Colonial Silk Company, incorporated by charter, with a capital of £1,000,000 in shares of £50; patronised by the Marquis of Landsdowne the Earl of Liverpool, the Right Honorable William Huskisson:—and in fact all the great and leading men of the realm.

No. VIII.

Sixth day of the third Age.

(Fifteenth of the rearing of the Silk Worm.)

On this day the silk worms begin to rouse, & thus accomplish the third age.

The general view of this age presents the following result.

In six days the silk worm goes through its third age.

In this age, those worms proceeding from five ounces of eggs have consumed nearly 800 pounds of leaves and young shoots; adding to this weight 45 pounds of refuse and pickings, 345 pounds weight have been drawn from the tree, or 69 pounds given to an ounce of eggs.

The muzzle of the silk worm, during the third age, has maintained a reddish ash colour, and is no longer shining and black, as it appears in the two first ages, bu it is lengthened and more prominent.

The head and the body is much enlarged since the casting of the skin, even before they have eaten at all; proving that they were straightened in the skin they have cast, and being now unconfined, the air alone has expanded their bulk.

This growth, which is considerable, is more visible in this age than in the preceding.

When this age is completed, the body of the silk worm is more wrinkled, particularly above the head; they are of a yellowish white, or rather fawn colour; and to the naked eye they have an appearance of hairiness.

The membraneous feet, and particularly those at the hinder extremities, have acquired much strength, and an adhesive quality which enables the silk worm strongly to retain any thing it touches. In this third age we first hear when the worms are fed, a little hissing noise similar to that of green wood burning.

This noise does not proceed from the action of the jaws, but from the motion of the feet, which are continually moving; this noise is such, that in a large laboratory it sounds like a soft shower of rain; by degrees, when the worms fasten to their food, the noise ceases.

The average length of the silk worms, which was six lines after the second moulting, is become, in less than seven days, above 12 lines.

The weight of the insect has increased four fold in the same period; after the second moulting, 610 worms made an ounce, now 144 only will complete that weight.

It has been sufficient during this age to open the ventilator, the door, and even the windows, when the weather was still and fine, so as to lower the temperature by a degree only.

In the damp close days, a light wood fire, in the fire place, renews the air by drawing a current, without fear of injuring the interior atmosphere.

During this age, it never happened to me to experience the exterior temperature, although higher than the interior, to be beyond the prescribed limits.

4. Rearing the Silk Worm in the Fourth Age.

In this age, the worms proceeding from five ounces of eggs, should occupy a space of about 412 square feet, which should be distributed in a manner similar to that practiced in the former age.

The temperature of the laboratory should be from 68o to 71o.

In this fourth age, as in the fith, there will probably be days in which it will not be possible to maintain the temperature of 71o, because of the heat of the weather, as the season advances; and in spite of artificial means, it may very probably rise to 73 deg. or upwards.

This augmentation of temperature need create no anxiety, because it does no harm. It is sufficient to prevent the circulation of air being interrupted. The moment it is perceived that the exterior atmosphere begins to heat the laboratory, the ventilators should be opened as well as all the apertures on the side unexposed to the sun.

I have seen in the space of two hours, some of my laboratories rise from 71o to 80o. I then opened all the apertures, and the air being stagnant, I had some faggot wood burnt in the fire place, placed in the angles to establish a complete current of air, and thus changed the air of all the rooms thoroughly. If instead of thus acting, when the heat of the season ceases suddenly, (which augments the fermentation of the litter) we should exclude the exterior air from the laboratory, we may chance to lose whole broods of silk worms, because as they grow, the mass of leaves and litter increasing, the dampness proceeding from it will more quickly produce fermentation, the heat would also augment, and the air would soon be not only moist but pestilential.

As we before said, the silk worms should not be lifted off the hurdles, after they have completed their third age, until they are all well roused, because, should the first roused have to wait a day, or a day and a half, it will not hurt them. Those early roused should be put in the coolest part of the laboratory, and the late roused worms in the warmest part. If this should be troublesome, it may suffice to give the latest roused worms more space by keeping them farther asunder & they will soon come up to the other.

It is easy to tell by the thermometer which are constantly the hottest part of the laboratory. And this knowledge will serve to render all the silk worms even sized, particularly if those who attend them have any practical skill. All this care is indispensable, if the worms are required to draw their silk equally, and at the period, particularly as there accrue great evils, which I shall hereafter demonstrate, when some of the silk worms rise too much above the others.

It is after the third moulting that the silk worms should be moved into the laboratory in which they are to remain until the end. The space of this large laboratory should contain at least 917 square feet of wicker hurdle or table. Experience constantly demonstrates the advantage of having buildings proportionate to what is required of them; as much on account of economy of fuel, if the season were cold, as the convenience of attendance. There would certainly be no great objection, should there be two or three small contiguous buildings, instead of one large laboratory, so that they afford an equal space.

The only advantage that would thus be lost, would be the great facility enjoyed in a spacious building of establishing, and maintaining, as we shall shew, constant and regular currents of air.

When we have the use of a single space, large enough to contain the 917 square feet of hurdles necessary for the accommodation of the silk worms proceeding from five ounces of eggs, it is beneficial to choose the most convenient part of the space, to place in it the 458 feet six inches, square of wicker hurdles upon which Insects are to be deposited, until the accomplishment of the fourth age, afterwards to distribute them upon the whole space of 917 square feet.

There is nothing so easy for those whose laboratories are well regulated, as to determine how the silk worms are to be distributed in the 158 feet six inches, on coming forth from their third age. It is only necessary to note on each hurdle its dimensions and the number of square feet; by which means in a moment may be seen which are the hurdles which must be used for this age, as well as for the preceding ages.

I must here repeat how advantageous to the art of rearing silk worms is the practice of distributing them in regular strips and squares, which should be extended, and gradually filled with these insects, as they accomplish their various ages, and particularly as the hurdles are not cleaned in the fourth age, the litter, that spreads by degrees not heating or contracting any effluvia, and not rising much.

2d. Because the leaf distributed upon evenly portioned spaces is entirely eaten before it is withered and spoilt.

3d. Because, by this practice, the worms, can feed with facility, move with ease, and breathe more freely, all decisive advantageous for these Insects.

He must forego these advantages when the worms lie too thick; in that condition they cover the surface so closely, that the leaves on which they lie are wasted, as they cannot possibly eat them; while on the contrary, when they have plenty of room, they seek in moving, every atom of the leaf, and eat it up. Besides, when straightened, the action of their breathing tubes is hindered and confined by the pressure, either superior or lateral of one worm against the other; whilst, when in full space, the action of their respiratory organs is free which materially contributes to their health.

From the Gardener's Calendar.

About the year of Christ 551, two Persian monks employed as missionaries in some of the Christian churches established in India, penetrated into the country of Seares, or China. There they observed the labors of the silk worm, and became acquainted with the art of working up its productions into a variety of elegant fabrics. They explained to the Greek Emperor at Constantinople these mysteries, hitherto unknown, or very imperfectly understood in Europe; and undertook to bring to the capital a sufficient number of those wonderful insects. This they accomplished, by conveying the eggs of the silken worm, in a hollow cane. They were hatched, and afterwards fed with the leaves of a wild mulberry tree, and worked in the same manner, as in those climates where they first became the object of human attention and care. Vast numbers of these insects were soon reared in different parts of Greece, particularly in the Peloponnesus. Sicily afterwards undertook to breed silk-worms, with equal success, and was imitated, from time to time, in several towns of Italy. In all these places, extensive manufactures were established, with silk of domestic producion.

From the reign of Justinian, it was mostly in Greece, and some of the adjacent Islands, that silk worms were reared. Soon after the conquest of Constantinople by the Venetians, in the year 1204, they attempted the establishment of the silk manufactures in their dominions; and in a short time, the silk fabrics of Venice vied with those of Greece and Sicily.

About the begining of the fourteenth century, the Florentine manufactures of silk, became very considerable. It was introduced much later in France; the manufacture of silk though considerably encouraged by Henry IV. not having been fully established there, till under Louis XIV. by Colbert.

It is an established and well known fact, that both the white and the black mulberry trees grow as well in almost every part of the United States, as in any country on earth; and also that silk has been raised and manufactured into a most excellent frabric, under the direction of that great and venerable patriot, and friend of mankind, Dr. Benj. Frankin. That so useful a pursuit should be suffered to die away, in a country as well adapted for it as any in the universe, is as extraordinary, as it is unfortunate and injurious to the real interest of the nation.

From the memoirs of Mrs. S. Huntington, Boston, May, 1818.

You ask how I like Cecil's Remains. Much, for the most part. But there appears to have been something of severity in his character, something more of the determined scholar, than the amiable Christian.

I am not pleased with his remarks upon my sex. This, you will say, is a matter of course.

In his remarks on the marriage of ministers, Mr. Cecil says, "A minister must stand on his own ground, when associating with women, and not descend to mingle among them." "Thought is the characterizing feature of men, and feeling of women." By the first remark, does Mr. C. intend to say, that a minister must not bring himself to a level with the giddy, the volatile, the thoughtless of our sex! Or does he mean that all women are so? My opinion has been, that, by cultivating habits of rational intercourse between the sexes, the real good of both parties would be promoted; that the men would become more social and refined, without losing their strength, and the women more sound, without losing their gentleness.

Is not the tendency of the above remarks likely to be unfavorable to both sexes? Are they not calculated to produce in the minds of men, an overweening opinion of their own importance, a loftiness of spirit, contrary to the temper of the meek and lowly Jesus, and inimical to the growth of religion in the soul? Are they likely to be equally deteriorating in their influence on the female mind? Will not the woman infer that, if the case be so, it is not necessary for her to cultivate her mental powers; that she may as well confine her views and her thoughts, so far as she thinks at all, to that contracted sphere comprehended under that general term *self*, as to endeavour to expand her benevolence by enlarging her knowledge? Will she not be in danger of becoming the despicable slave of a morbid sensibility which she has not learnt to control, by being told that she was made for feeling rather than reflection? Alas! how can woman, subject to the accumulated vexations of outward temptation and constitutional frailty, be expected to endure the evils of life with firmness, when the whole tendency of her education has been to enervate the energies of the mind, induce loose habits of thinking and undermine the government of reason.

But the chief objection I have to Mr. Cecil's remarks on this subject is, that they are calculated to deprive women of that respect in their own families, which is necessary to the proper management of children. Now this I deem of incalculable importance. Let the sons of a family lose their respect for their mother, and it will be utterly impossible for a substitute for a natural authority to be found. I do not hesitate to say, (and I do not say it rashly, or without much examination of the subject,) that those families, where the character of the mother is depressed to that of a mere housekeeper, are never well governed; and that, on the contrary, the sons of those mothers, whose rank in the family authorises them to be the counsellors of their children, are in childhood more amiable, and in manhood more worthy, than others. If children are not under the government of their mothers, they must necessarily be left very much to their own guidance, and exposed to early associations unfriendly to virtue. Their characters will be mostly formed by the influence of adventitious circumstances; unless, indeed, the father can oversee them constantly, which is rarely the case. The father requires the boy to obey his mother, and perhaps gives him long lessons on the subject; but of how much weight they will be, in turning the scale between duty and inclination, when the child sees that the father does not respect her himself, it requires but little sagacity to conjecture. The habit of trifling, of dissimulation, and of rebellion, is thus acquired; and, if grace effects an alteration in the state of the heart afterwards, it certainly operates under circumstances unfavorable to its growth.

There is also another evil resulting from the opinion above stated. It is the interruption of domestic peace. Such an opinion introduces pride, and pertinacity, and imperiousness, on the one hand, and jealousy and enmity on the other, among brothers and sisters; and, in this way, is destructive of the best principles and affections of our nature.

There are those who think, that if women are treated as equals, they will aspire to dominion, or will not "be in subjection, with reverence," to their husbands. I am of the contrary opinion. We can never yield unwillingly, when we think the duty of doing so is unquestionable. But we always give with the worst grace what is extorted. We are always the most generous when left free. The enlightened obedience of a sensible woman is consistent, because it is the dictate of reason; it is seen to be necessary, in the constitution of things, and for the preservation of order in the various departments of the creation of God. The capricious subjection of a weak and ill-informed woman, is that of a slave; and not being properly conceived of, in the first place, is likely to be disputed, or submitted to with reluctance.

But nothing can be more idle than to dispute the point of equality with our brethren. Time is too short to waste in this way. And besides, by society at large, every individual will generally be respected in proportion to his merits. If we would have influence, we must prove, in the first place, that we deserve it. But every one in his order. The moment a woman steps out of her proper sphere, she ceases to be, in proportion to her deviation from the path prescribed her, either amiable or respectable. And, in my judgment, were women blessed with an enlightened education, and taught to view the subject of female subordination in a philosophical and scriptural way, they would, not only be much greater helpers and blessings to their husbands and children, but in much less danger of usurping that authority which God and nature have delegated to the other sex.

The Wedding.—If there be a scene in this wide world on which the eye of heaven could rest with complacency, it is when two hearts are bound in that tie which "no man can put assunder." And to those who are fond of observing the various scenes of life, the wedding day incident will afford a theme in which fancy can revel in wild and happy luxuriance. Although it is a time for rejoicing, as every pretty face will tell by the smile that plays upon it, yet at times, a solemnity will steal unawares over the mind, as we ponder upon the future, that is all wrapped in darkness, until our feelings will be for a moment lost in a wild rich reverie.

He who passes through life without ever feeling the soft raptures of that charm which woman possesses, when age has whitened his locks, and the incidents of his pilgrimage pass in review before him, will acknowledge that wedding scenes are sunny spots that glitter on the landscape of his memory; they are scenes in which he would willingly become an interested participator, for he now feels that he is alone in the world; there is no heart that beats in unison with his, no hand to smooth the pillow where anguish dwells, nor hang with fondness of affection over the fevered frame.

But very different are the young and enthusiastic, when they mingle in the wedding joy, and gaze upon a happy groom and smiling bride. They have a thousand fairy links woven in a chain around them by the busy hands of Cupid. If then fancy is centred on an object, they long to make her their bride, to see her cheerful and happy and if not, their eyes will roam around to find a fair one worthy of the affections they have to bestow. Yes; at such times there is a rapture in the thought, a joy in anticipation of that day when the sun shines sweetly upon their happiness; when their destiny will be linked with another; he to protect and cherish, she to love and soothe. Thus, one wedding creates another: may there be many.

Miseries of Printers.—There is no labor that requires a greater exercise of diligence, both of mind and body, and none more important in its effects upon society, than the labor of those connected with printing; and yet strange as it may seem, there is none less appreciated, more undervalued, or more reluctantly rewarded than this. Of the thousands of persons who read books and newspapers in this country, not one in an hundred have a just conception of the labors of a printing-office. A person who comes late at night with an advertisement, marriage or death, after the form is made up, can never be made to believe that the paper must be delayed an hour to accommodate him; and if you refuse, 'tis set down at once to a disobliging disposition. The correspondent who drops in at 10 or 11 to revise a proof of his own manuscript, he imagines it is impossible for any one but himself to do correctly, will scan its besuties for an hour, without being the least aware he is delaying the paper a second; round half a dozen new periods, scratch the margin over so as to leave the whole unintelligible to the proof corrector, and then beg, with perfect composure, that he may see another proof of it in ten minutes! when it will cost at least two hours to comply with his request, which you must either do at the expense of some of your subscribers whose papers must be mailed at 4 o'clock in the morning, or neglect to do it at the risk of losing his good will.

The most of people seem to imagine that a newspaper is got up by a kind of steam process, that it is no great affair after all. A sheet of paper, say they, costs little or nothing, ink is cheap, and as to labor, the printer's *devils* are good for nothing else. On this principle it is that A B and C think they ought to be supplied with a paper *gratis*. It costs nothing, and besides tends to circulate the paper and bring it into notice! Others hold that a printer is bound to put into his paper every sort of advertisement, communication, puff *et id omne genus*, (and all kind of stuff,) whether for public or private good, or no good at all, and if a word of demur is made, you are told it is a very great favor to let you have it instead of another office, and that it helps to make up your paper.

It were useless to speak of that class of people who get their daily political food by sponging on their neighbors who take the paper, until they are finally provoked to stop it to get rid of the annoyance of this infernal system of borrowing; all of which comes upon the poor printers at last. Some people imagine that type never wear out, and we have heard serious enquiries whether it was ever necessary to renew a fount of type? Others have been astonished to learn that the editor ever wrote any thing for the paper, and supposed it was made up of communications sent in gratuitously. Sensible people have often asked who wrote such and such an article, notwithstanding it was under the editorial head. In short, there is no end to this thing. All other trades seem to be understood in some measure by their customers, except the printer's. Other professions and occupations present some instances of the acquisition of wealth, but who ever heard of a *rich* printer or editor?

Prov. Journal.

The Nantucket Journal contains an extract of a letter from Gallipolis. (Ohio,) describing a singular accident in a salt well. A person had been lowered to the bottom of the well, a depth of 52ft. for the purpose of making some repair, when finding it dark, he called for a light. A candle was procured, and was lowered to the depth of about 20 feet, when the air of the well took fire.—The person at the bottom was immediately drawn up—his hands and face much scorched, and his hair and whiskers consumed, but he is likely to survive the accident.