DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Wednesday, - - - - July 14, 1869.

CORRESPONDENCE ON SERICULTURE.

Editor Deseret News.—Dear Sir:—The facts and statements contained in the following note are too interesting to be passed over in silence, therefore please publish them in the columns of your most valuable journal.

SPANISH FORK,
June 28th, 1869.

Brother Bertrand.—Dear Sir:—Knowing the interest you feel in the progress of sericulture, I take the liberty of penning a few lines to you to ask some questions, and to tell you what I have done in silk raising.

In the year 1866, Bishop A. K. Thurber brought some eggs from London, which he distributed amongst five or six persons, but all except myself were unsuccessful in raising any worms from them. I had about fifty eggs, and of that number twenty-five matured and were about to spin, when a cat destroyed nine worms, leaving sixteen which spun, but there were only three female moths. These produced about five hundred eggs. Some of my neighbors thought it a trifling business, but I persevered and last year I had about 60,000 eggs. As I had only one mulberry tree four years old I resorted to the Osage orange for feed. I lost but very few last year. This year I am feeding about 5,000 worms, and have not seen one dead up to the present time. My neighbors are now quite interested in silk culture, about thirty are raising a little silk and I find that those who have fed their worms on Osage orange have invariably had good success, but those who have fed on mulberry have not had such good success. Some have fed on lettuce, some on cabbage, and one person fed on pigweed or wild spinach. I have sent a sample of cocoons to President Young, the production of worms that have been fed exclusively on Osage orange two seasons. I presume they will be forwarded to you for inspection. I would like to have the quality of the silk tested, also to know if the worms I have are worth propogating. I have distributed eggs through most of the settlements in Utah County, also San Pete and St. George. Will it be best to allow my worms to produce eggs this season? they will produce more than I can keep next year, and there will be no sale for them in this county. Can I sell them in any other place? If I destroy the chrysalis what can I do with the cocoons? What is the best kind of paper for the moths to lie on? Where can it be obtained.

A great many mulberry cuttings were sold to the people here by Brother G. D. Watt, but they have proved almost an entire failure, creating quite a disappointment. Several have expressed to me a wish to procure seed of the mulberry the coming season from you. Can you tell what the price will be per pound?

If it will not intrude too much upon your time, an answer to the above questions will greatly oblige your Brother in the covenant of peace.

S. CORNABY.

My answer to the above.

President Young's Cocoonery,
July 5, 1869.

Dear Brother.—Being too busy at the present time in raising a numerous lot of silkworms, I will merely say that I do not believe in the efficacity of the Osage orange for producing a good article of silk. The facts stated in your note are certainly very curious, but every experiment which has been attempted in various countries to feed the *Mori Bombix* has triumphantly established this fact, that the mulberry leaves are exclusively the natural food of that most precious insect. The mulberry has been appointed by God to produce the silk; every attempt to substitute any other kind of food for the worms will prove abortive. Therefore I humbly advise you to start a mulberry nursery as soon as convenient. With your experience, you will be richly rewarded by your future success in sericulture.

I have not seen the cocoons which you have sent to President Young. As Bro. Geo. D. Watt has got a nice reeling machine, you would do well to send him all the cocoons of your present crop in order that they may be fully tested. The silk proceeding from them will doubtless be very inferior to the raw silk of the mulberry-fed worms. I do firmly believe that your worms are not worth propagating. Any kind of paper is good enough for the laying of eggs; but, in my estimation, the best is printing paper, of the quality used by the DESERET NEWS.

The prices of the various mulberry seeds are generally variable in the French markets. Mine will be prepared expressly for myself by the growers, and will be sold here at fourteen dollars (in gold) a pound for the *Moretti*, and twelve dollars for the *Morus Alba*, or white mulberry. The retail price will be one dollar (in gold) an ounce.

The worms being extremely hungry, I am compelled to close this communication.

In haste, your brother in the Gospel,
LOUIS A. BERTRAND.

P. S. In establishing his magnificent plantations of mulberry trees, and in building up his beautiful and important cocoonery, President Young has done more for his own interests, and for Utah in general, than the discovery of the richest gold mine on this continent. After the example of our own far-seeing leader, let every friend of social progress start a mulberry nursery on his farm.

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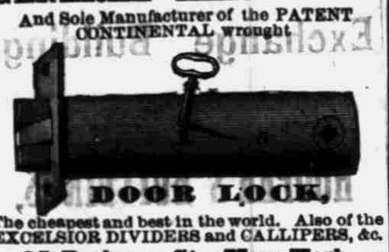

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