

fanning mills, and various other things. There is an important improvement in the threshing machines in the contrivance for shaking the straw. It does it effectually, and is much less cumbersome than the old plan. I hope that some of our mechanics will copy it. I will try and get an intelligible description of it.

I will now return to the Exhibition. We are not yet done with our inspection. We have got through the very extensive collections of France, Austria, and Hungary, all of which are exceedingly good. We have the products of one or two European countries yet to examine, and have to complete the examination of the products of Victoria, Australia, which have only just arrived, and are not yet ready for inspection. No country is able to produce such splendid samples of grain as Victoria, while the specimens of the products of her mines proclaim her wealth to be also immense in the useful and precious metals. The progress she has made within the last ten years is astonishingly great, and she is sparing no pains to make it manifest to the world by the very fine display of her products at the International Exhibition.

The Epsom races are going on this week, and seem to absorb the attention of the public very generally. As I write the road is full of people on their way there to witness or participate in the sports. I do not intend to go to the races, as they are not exactly in my line.

On Monday, it being the first one shilling day at the Exhibition, there were about 26,000 visitors. Yesterday the number increased to 35,000. There will no doubt be a gradual increase, as cheap excursion trains are advertised on all the railroads. Crowds of people will be able by that means to gratify their curiosity, and derive much instruction and benefit from seeing this the greatest display of the products of human industry the world has ever witnessed. It is now universally admitted that the Exhibition of 1862 far surpasses that of 1851 in interest.

There is one portion of the Exhibition to which it would be in vain for me to attempt to do justice. This is the Western Annexe, where the very extensive collection of manufacturing machinery is in motion, doing every kind of work, and producing a din and clatter that are deafening, but which at the same time is in a greater degree than I can express interesting and instructive. The English Artizans have not by any means, got it all to themselves. France, Belgium, and the Zollverein have their extensive machinery at work, showing that they are not far behind their neighbors, and that they are willing to contribute to the utmost of their power in giving a further stimulus to the inventive genius of the age. Most glorious and beneficent must be the result of the united efforts of the world in this great International Exhibition of Industry and Art; and by no means an unimportant advantage is the bringing together of the inhabitants of the various countries of the earth

to form acquaintances which will give them better impressions of each other than they could acquire in any other way, or by much more expensive means.

Your's &c.,

E. W. THOMSON.

### Botanical Society of Canada.

A NEW FIBRE PLANT SUITED TO THE CLIMATE OF CANADA.

(From the Kingston Whig.)

His Excellency, Viscount Monck, has communicated to the Botanical Society of Canada some valuable information respecting a fibre plant sent forth from the Rocky Mountains by Dr. Hart to Lord Lyons, which the Society's Secretary has determined to be an Asclepias, and which is now under experiment in the Botanical Garden at Kingston. Since the publication of the various details in the Society's "Annals," the following communication has been received from His Excellency's Secretary:—

"The Governor General's Secretary is directed by his Excellency to transmit to the Secretary of the Botanical Society of Canada the inclosed copy of a letter from Dr. F. W. Hart, of St. Louis, respecting the mode of treatment pursued in the culture of the silk plant from the Rocky Mountains.

"Government House,  
Quebec, 2nd June, 1862." }

COPY.

ST. LOUIS, No. 64 Fourth St., Mo.,  
May 22nd, 1862.

To His Excellency Viscount Monck:

Simultaneously with a letter from Lord Lyons, one from the Secretary of Your Excellency (16th May) was received.

In answer to your request, relative to the treatment of seeds of the Silk Weed:—The Silk Weed is adapted to rich, moist, bottom soil. I recommend the London district, Canada West, or any where along the country the Welland canal runs through, or on the banks of the St. Lawrence, Canada West. The ground for planting should be prepared as follows:—Plow up four furrows, thrown together, then harrow down the ridge to pulverize it. Plant the seed about 12 inches apart in the centre drill made by the centre teeth of the harrow, cover lightly with the harrow or hoe; when the plant is three weeks old hoe the weeds away from it, then, with a light one-horse Yankee plough, bar off on both sides of the ridge, and about 6 inches from the plant, coming back immediately with the plow, and throw a furrow back to the plant, thereby hilling it in on both sides. If the season is dry, throw two furrows to the plant; the oftener the middles are plowed out, the more the plant will grow; it will not bear dirt taken away