

great lustre and strength, and pronounced superior to Japanese and all other silks, except the best Chinese, by competent judges.

The silk is unwound by a simple process perfected by Mr. Trouvelot, each cocoon yielding about 1500 yards. This insect is very hardy, being found throughout the Northern States and Canada; and, as it feeds upon the leaves of oak, maple, willow, and other common forest trees, may be reared easily in any part of the country.

Mr. Trouvelot has gradually increased his stock from year to year, by raising young from the eggs of the few individuals first captured, until he has at present seven waggon-loads of cocoons, the entire progeny of which he proposes to raise during the coming season.

The thanks of the country are due to the ingenious and persevering author of this successful attempt to introduce a new and interesting field for industry and enterprise, which cannot fail to be a source of profit to those who intelligently engage in it, and of increased wealth and prosperity to the people, should it be developed to the extent that now seems possible.

The first public notice of his experiments with this insect was given by Mr. Trouvelot at a meeting of the Institute of Technology, at Boston, about a year ago, when he exhibited specimens of silk manufactured from it, both natural-colored and dyed.—*A. E. V. in Silliman's Journal.*

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BOTANICAL NOTES.—*Aspidium fragrans* Swartz. Our correspondent, Dr. Thomas, has had the good fortune to find this rare fern at Rivière-du-Loup (en bas); its only other Canadian locality certainly known to me is "East shore of Lake Superior in rocky open woods," where it was found by Mr. Barnston in 1859. *Asplenium viride* Hudson, has also been found by Dr. Thomas at the same place; the provincial range of this fern would thus appear to be from Canada East and New Brunswick (Mr. Matthew) to Newfoundland,

Our correspondent, Mr. Macoun, has found *Myosurus minimus* Linn., near Belleville—a very interesting discovery: he also announces *Potamogeton abruptus* Wood, and *Cardamine hirsuta* var. *Virginica* as natives of that neighborhood. W.