

**A MANUAL CONTAINING
INFORMATION RESPECTING THE
GROWTH OF THE MULBERRY TREE,
WITH SUITABLE DIRECTIONS FOR THE
CULTURE OF SILK, IN THREE PARTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649019878

A manual containing information respecting the growth of the mulberry tree, with suitable directions for the culture of silk, in three parts by J. H. Cobb

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. H. COBB

**A MANUAL CONTAINING
INFORMATION RESPECTING THE
GROWTH OF THE MULBERRY TREE,
WITH SUITABLE DIRECTIONS FOR THE
CULTURE OF SILK, IN THREE PARTS**



18
H
107

MANUAL
 CONTAINING
 INFORMATION RESPECTING THE GROWTH
 OF THE
 MULBERRY TREE,
 WITH
 SUITABLE DIRECTIONS
 FOR THE
 CULTURE OF SILK,
 IN THREE PARTS.

By ^{written} J. H. COBB, A. M.

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF HIS EXCELLENCY GOV. LINCOLN,
 AGREEABLY TO A RESOLVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Ostendens hujus muneris aram.
 Videtur Bombyx.

BOSTON,
 PUBLISHED BY CARTER AND HENDEE.
 M DCCC XXXIII.

1833

MAIN LIB.-AGRIC.

BOSTON CLASSIC PRESS:

J. R. BUTTS.

S'F 545
C 58

INTRODUCTION.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1831.

MR WHEELER, from the Committee on Agriculture, who were instructed to consider the expediency of encouraging the growth of the MULBERRY TREE, and the Culture of SILK, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee have examined the subject attentively, and find it to be of much greater importance than was at first supposed. They are surprised to find how great a field is here open, and how long it has been neglected; they are satisfied beyond a doubt, that we have the power to produce and manufacture Silk in this Commonwealth to an immense extent, and that no difficulty is to be encountered either from soil or climate.

2 M818252

The nations of Europe are generally engaged in the culture and manufacture of silk. France, more than any other nation, derives her power and resources mainly from this branch of her industry; her example has induced England, Holland, Germany, Prussia and Sweden to engage with zeal in the same pursuit.

The culture of silk is important in relation to the amount of silk imported and consumed in this country, which exceeds seven millions of dollars, while the amount of bread stuff exported is on the average less than six millions of dollars! Facts like these need no comment; yet it is proper that we should bear in mind, that the vast sums thus expended for silk in its various forms, are paid indirectly to enrich the Agriculture and Manufacture of other nations, the raw material of which may be produced here with as much certainty as cotton or any other staple product.

The article of silk has already been produced by a few of our citizens in small quantities, of a quality not inferior to the best imported. Jonathan H. Cobb, Esq. of Dedham, has commenced the culture of silk with success, and has introduced some valuable improvements, especially in the art of reeling from the cocoon, and it is due to that gentleman, that the Committee should remark, that it is from practical information communicated by him, that they have derived some important facts in relation to this subject.

The state of society in this Commonwealth is well adapted to promote the successful culture of silk: it is an employment, in which females and children may be honorably and profitably engaged; with the exception of planting the Mulberry tree, the whole labor may be performed by that class of the community. The Committee feel warranted in

INTRODUCTION.

v

saying that so soon as the article can be produced, a good home market will be found at such prices as to afford a profit on the expense and labor bestowed upon it. The White Mulberry tree is easily cultivated, does not require the best soil, serves a valuable purpose for hedges, and is highly ornamental.

The Committee are satisfied that little capital is required to commence the culture of silk, except that capital which consists in knowledge. It is information which is the foundation of Agriculture, as well as other arts. Nothing is so well calculated to call the attention of the public to this subject as information respecting its value, and the means by which our citizens may avail themselves of the advantages which are connected with it; for the purpose of disseminating this information the Committee have thought it their duty to report the following resolution.

Which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee, ABEL WHEELER, *Chairman.*

House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1831.

Resolved, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to cause to be compiled and printed a concise MANUAL, to contain the best information respecting the growth of the MULBERRY TREE, with suitable directions for the culture of SILK, — and that this manual be distributed in suitable numbers in the city of Boston, and to every town in the Commonwealth. — That to defray the expense thus incurred, he be authorized to draw his warrant on the treasury for a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars.



P R E F A C E .

In preparing this Manual the author has been guided by the personal experience which he has had for several years in the culture of the Mulberry Tree and rearing of Silk Worms in the State of Massachusetts.

In addition to the instruction which his own practical knowledge in the business has suggested, he has made use of the following works, from some of which he has made considerable extracts, where he found the instruction conveyed was such, as from the test of experience he could recommend, viz. — The Manual published under the authority of Congress; the two first numbers of the Silk Culturist, by Dr Felix Pascalis, of New York; Mr Wm. H. Vernon's abridgment of the large French work of M. de la Brousse; Essays on American Silk by Messrs D'Homergue and Du Ponceau, of Philadelphia; and a pamphlet published by Gideon B. Smith, Esq. of Baltimore. The author tenders his thanks to several of the above-named gentlemen for the liberty which they have permitted him to take, as also for many personal communications