

Siena 4<sup>th</sup> October 1804

Sir

Having had, during a short residence in this country, an opportunity to obtain some information respecting the treatment of the Silk-worm, and the manner of procuring the silk after it is made by the insect; I have put my remarks on paper in as full and at the same time as concise a form, as I have been capable of, & take the liberty of sending to your Excellency, with these observations, a portion of the seed of the silk-worm, being satisfied that you alone can, or would have the curiosity to attempt, the introduction of this useful insect into the United States. I am at the same time persuaded that it would by no means be difficult to do so. —

I am sensible that there are Essays on the subject of the silk worm in every Encyclopedia published, as also in the Dictionary of Rosier; and that of course the remarks I inclose can scarcely be new, & may therefore be unnecessary. It may still be observed, that it is more than provable that these works refine too much on a very simple operation and that plain directions taken from those whose occupation it is to raise the silk, are preferable to lengthy theories. —

I am on the point of setting out for Marseilles, where I propose passing the winter. Should I obtain any information

there, or on my Route, which should alter  
materially any of the observations in the  
papers herewith, I shall take the liberty  
of communicating it,

I know not in what terms, to  
apologize to your Excellency, for an  
intrusion which has as equal a chance  
of being troublesome, as of being acceptable.  
I pray you to attribute to me no motive  
of officious zeal, or ostentation of utility.

With sentiments of profound  
respect, I remain Your Excellency's

obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

Robert K Lowry