thicker than the former; yet it is weaker than that of the silk-worm, which bears a weight of two drachms and a half; so that five threads of the spider's bag must be put together to equal one thread of the silk-worm's bag.

Now it is impossible that these should be applied so justly over one another as not to leave little vacant spaces between them, whence the light will not be reflected, and in consequence a thread thus composed must fall short of the lustre of a solid thread; add to this, that the spider's thread cannot be wound off like that of the silk-worm but must of necessity be carded; by which means, being torn in pieces, its evenness, which contributes much to its lustre, is destroyed. In effect, this want of lustre was taken notice of by M. de la Hire, when the stockings were presented to the Academy. Again, spiders furnish much less silk than the worms; the largest bags of the latter weigh four grains, the smaller three grains; so that 2304 worms produce a pound of silk. The spider bags do not weigh above one grain; yet when cleared of their dust and filth, they lose two-thirds of their weight. The work of twelve spiders, therefore, only equals that of one silk-worm; and a pound of silk will require at

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