

lettuce, or holy oak, will sustain them: but they do not thrive so well as upon their own diet; and their silk will neither be so copious, nor of so good a quality.

Though a judicious choice and a careful management of their diet, is absolutely necessary, yet there is another precaution of equal importance, which is to give them air, and open their chamber windows, at those times when the sun shines warmest.

The worm, at the time it bursts the shell, is extremely small, and of a black colour; but the head is of a more shining black than the rest of the body: some days after they begin to turn whitish, or of an ash coloured grey. After the skin begins to grow too rigid, or the animal is stunted with it, the insect throws it off, and appears clothed a-new: it then becomes larger and much whiter, though it has a greenish cast. After some days, which are more or less, according to the different heat of the climate, or to the quality of the food, it leaves off eating, and seems to sleep for two days together: then it begins to stir, and puts itself into violent motions, till the skin falls off the second time, and is thrown aside by the animal's feet. All these changes are made in three weeks or a