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*Foreign Office, January 17, 1873.*

**E**ARL GRANVILLE, K.G., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from R. G. Watson, Esq., Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Japan, the following Despatch, inclosing an article on the Culture of Silk in that country, extracted from the Japan Mail:—

*Yedo,*

*November 11, 1872.*

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an interesting article on the subject of sericulture and silk, which was originally translated from the Italian into French for the *Moniteur des Soies*, and which has now been retranslated for the Japan Mail into English.

I am not aware whether or not the article in question may have already appeared in English, but as it contains information which may be of value to Englishmen interested in the silk question, I now forward it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) R. G. WATSON.

*The Right Honourable  
Earl Granville, K.G., &c., &c., &c.*

## SERICULTURE, AND SILK IN JAPAN AND IN EUROPE.

The following interesting article on this subject is from the pen of Mr. Isidore dell'Oro, originally written in Italian, but translated by us from the French of the *Moniteur des Soies*:—

### *An Excursion to Schimamoura.*

I left Yokohama on the 21st June, 1871, and three days after, arrived at Schimamoura, having traversed, on foot, a distance of 100 kilometres. I was accompanied only by Kamisawaja-Josaburo, the son of a rich proprietor of Schimamoura, who is very popular on account of the excellent quality of the cards of silkworm eggs which he sells.

Immediately after a discussion at the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce, touching the export of silkworm eggs and the diseases of the worms, I undertook an expedition into the interior, to assure myself personally as to whether or not the malady existed as our opponents maintained.

The Italian authorities refused to obtain for me from the Japanese Government a passport and an escort, under the pretext that in affording me these guarantees for the safety of my expedition, they could not refuse the same to other

Italians, so that, had I been assassinated while in the interior, it would have been at my own risk and without remedy.

Thus, I am the first foreigner who, on his own authority, alone and without escort, has penetrated thus far into the interior of Japan. I cannot praise the Japanese too highly for the kindness and courtesies shown to me, and also for the facilities afforded to obtain my object by allowing me to visit, without hindrance, as many as seventy-two native magnaneries.

It is true that in those villages, till then unvisited by foreigners, a few children, with natural curiosity, followed me to the end of the road; but on hearing me speak their own language with fluency, they soon retired, doubting even whether I was a foreigner, a "Tojinsan," as they said, since so many Japanese have adopted European costume.

Schimamoura is situated in a plain at a distance of 100 kilometres from Yokohama. It is surrounded by the river Tonegawa and a large canal dug some 300 years ago, which now serves both for purposes of irrigation and navigation. Surrounding the town, but at a distance of twenty to twenty-five kilometres, are the picturesque mountains of Jiosciu, Sinciu, Mybask, &c., &c.

The silkworm growers of Schimamoura have the reputation of raising the worms better than in any other part of Japan; and so universally is this acknowledged that, during the present year, the Empress, having raised some worms at Tokel, sent for three of the daughters of the principal growers of Schimamoura, among the number being the daughter of Josaburo Tagima, of whom I shall presently speak: the girls, it should be mentioned, were required to teach the Empress, and to aid her in raising the silkworms.

Besides this, the daimio of Heso near the settlement of Nagasaki, being desirous of introducing the silkworm trade into his own province, sent to Schimamoura seven of his most intelligent officers, in order to learn the best methods of sericulture, apprenticing two of these officers to each of the principal growers of the place. I myself saw these officers, notwithstanding their nobility, working like plain artisans, pickling mulberry leaves, distributing the silkworms, and changing their beds.

Having one day invited them to dine with me at the residence of my host Josaburo Tagima, they told me, among other matters, that the daimio, their lord, had imported into his own