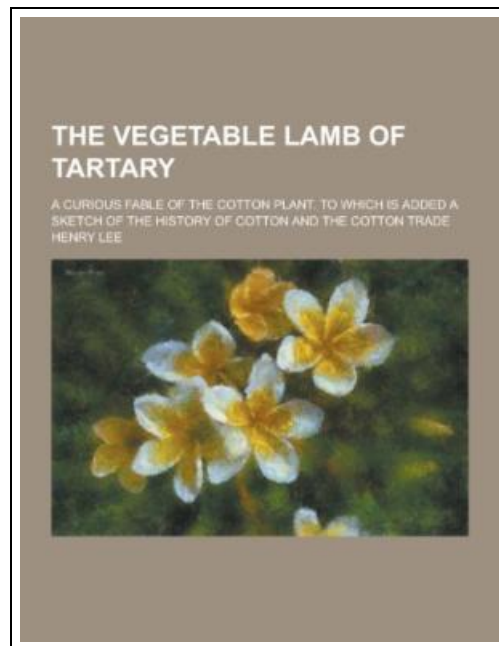


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THE VEGETABLE LAMB OF TARTARY; A CURIOUS FABLE OF THE COTTON PLANT. TO WHICH IS ADDED A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF COTTON AND THE COTTON TRADE

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Theclassics.us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1887 edition. Excerpt: . CHAPTER II. The History Of Cotton And Its Introduction Into Europe. In the preceding pages I have referred to the introduction of cotton into the countries north and west of the Indus in so far only as the expressions of old writers relating to it have seemed to afford a clue to the origin of the fable of the Scythian Lamb. But I venture to think that a brief account of its botanical affinities, and of its spread and distribution amongst various nations, may form an appropriate and acceptable sequel to the story of the wild rumours that preceded by many centuries its arrival in Western Europe. The cotton plant, *Gossypium*, is one of the Malvaceae-- allied to the mallow. There are several varieties of it, but only three principal distinctions require notice--namely, the herbaceous, the tree, and the shrub species. The first and most useful, *Gossypium herbaceum*, is an annual plant, cultivated in the United States, India, China, and other countries. It grows to a height of from eighteen to twenty inches, and has leaves, which being somewhat lobed, of a bright dark green colour, and marked with brownish veins, were not inaptly compared by Theophrastus with those of the black mulberry and the vine. Its blossoms expand into a pale yellow flower, and when this falls off a three-celled, triangular capsular pod appears. The pod increases to the size of a large cob-nut or small medlar, and becomes brown as the...

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