



THE KAPOK, OR SILK, TREE. ONE OF THE MOST PECULIAR APPEARING MONSTERS OF THE VEGETABLE KINGDOM.

This tree, the bark of which grows in great folds, is found on three continents, in the tropical quarters of the globe. It is highly prized for the various commercial uses to which it can be put.

TREE THAT GROWS SILK

THE cotton tree, or kapok—a name of East Indian origin—found in Asia, Africa and the West Indies, yields a valuable silky wool, which invests the seeds. This wool—in reality a species of silk, goes under the commercial name of Kapok, a material used for upholstering, stuffing pillows, cushions, etc., and in the manufacture of life-preservers. It is a very important article of export from the island of Ceylon.

The bark grows in great folds like shelves, amply large enough for human beings to rest upon. Among the African negroes, the tree has an important place in certain religious rites, just as the mistletoe did among the druids of Ancient Gaul or France.