



Annual Report 1898-1899

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the progress and condition of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending July 31st, 1899:

The generosity of members of the Visiting Committee and other friends of this Department provided late in the year a construction fund of \$30,000, available for completing the grading, draining, and planting of the Arboretum. This work was begun in July; it can be finished during the next academic year (1899-1900), and at the end of the century the construction of the Arboretum should be essentially finished as far as it is possible to complete a public scientific garden, where new requirements for study and enjoyment constantly demand changes and modifications which must be provided for from the income of a sufficient endowment. Such an endowment the Arboretum still needs, and I repeat the statement made in my annual report two years ago, that it is impossible to maintain this establishment, which is now one of the largest scientific gardens in the world, on its present income, and that if it is to do the scientific work for which it was founded and is now equipped, and to broaden its influence in popular education and by research, exploration, and publication, it should have an endowment of one million dollars.

[The Park Commissioners of the City of Boston](#), realizing the value of the Arboretum as a part of the municipal park system and its educational and artistic value to the community, have lost no opportunity during the last three years to aid me in its development and construction. During the year they have carried on energetically the work of road-building and grading in the Peters Hill extension and have erected handsome and substantial iron gates at the five entrances to the original Arboretum. There is now every reason to believe that the construction work in the Arboretum assumed by the City of Boston under its contract with the President and Fellows will be finished before the end of the next academic year.

The planting of trees to protect the boundaries of the Peters Hill extension has been begun during the year, and a large amount of material has been accumulated in the nurseries to use next year for this purpose.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural and botanical establishments has been continued during the year. There have been 9,947 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 1,185 packets of seeds distributed as follows: To the United States, 9,617 plants and 666 packets of seeds; to Canada, 60 packets of seeds; to the West Indies, 5 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 260 plants and 118 packets of seeds; to the

continent of Europe, 70 plants and 217 packets of seeds; to Japan, 101 packets of seeds; to the East Indies, 12 packets of seeds; to India, 6 packets of seeds. There have been received during the year 3,471 plants (including cuttings and grafts) and 93 packets of seeds.

During the year 1,264 sheets of dried plants have been added to the herbarium; and the library has received by gift 682 bound volumes, including a number of complete sets of periodicals, and 362 pamphlets. The students of trees have long felt the need of a bibliography of the literature of the subject, and it has been decided after consultation with Miss Bradley to devote the income of the fund presented by her to the Arboretum in memory of her father, William L. Bradley, to the preparation of such a work, which has now been placed in charge of Mr. W. G. Forsyth, a trained bibliographer and librarian. This bibliography, based primarily on the library of the Arboretum, is expected eventually to embrace the titles of the books and papers in all languages in any way devoted to trees and shrubs and published before the end of 1901. The preparation of such a work is necessarily slow, and ten years does not seem an unreasonable time in which to get it ready for the printer.

During the year the twelfth volume of *The Silva of North America* has been published. When the first volume of this book appeared in October, 1890, it was believed that it could be completed in twelve volumes. The botanical activity which has existed in all parts of the country during the last ten years, and the increased facility for field work which has followed the recent growth of railroads in the West and South, have brought to light species and varieties of trees which were not recognized when this work was begun, so that at least one supplementary volume with numerous illustrations will be needed adequately to make known the trees of the continent.

During the spring months the usual course in dendrology was given by [Mr. J. G. Jack](#) to a class of men and women, chiefly composed of teachers.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture for their annual grant of \$2,000 for the purposes of the Arboretum, and to the members of the Visiting Committee for their wise and generous support.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.