



Annual Report 1873-1874

To the President of the University:

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following report of the present condition of the Arnold Arboretum, and of its progress during the two years which have passed since I was entrusted with the direction of its formation.

With very limited means at the disposal of the director have, of necessity, made these two years, years of preparation and organization.

A catalogue of the ligneous plants growing spontaneously, or by introduction previous to 1872, on that portion of the "[Bussey Farm](#)" which is to be devoted to the Arboretum has been made.

The soil and indigenous growth on the various portions of the grounds have been carefully studied with a view to a proper determination of the permanent location of the various collections, and several thousand trees and shrubs have been raised for the future plantations.

An inspection of the trees already growing in the arboretum showed that many of them were in a miserable condition from long neglect of proper thinning, and the consequent want of food, light and air. To remedy this as far as possible the woods and old plantations have been gradually thinned out, the weak, deformed, and unhealthy plants being cut first, and then such as interfered with fine single specimens, or with specimens of only occasional occurrence. Returning health in many of the trees, and the greatly improved appearance of the woods and belts of timber is already apparent, although the operation of thinning out old woodlands, with a view to forming healthy, well developed trees, is necessarily a slow one, and must be extended over many years.

Already many noble specimens of some of the finest native trees are scattered through the open portions of the grounds, promising dignity and interest to the Arboretum, and proving that the situation is particularly adapted to the use to which it is to be devoted.

I am under deep obligation to [Dr. Asa Gray](#) for the valuable assistance and advice with which he has honored me from the very outset of the undertaking, and for an introduction to his numerous correspondents both in America and Europe.

I take this occasion to acknowledge the following contributions:

Many seeds of European and Asiatic trees and shrubs from the Royal Gardens, Kew, through its Director, Dr. J. D. Hooker. Several collections of seeds, especially of the trees of

Eastern Asia, from the Jardin des Plantes, through its Director, Prof. Decaisne. Collections of seeds of the trees and shrubs of Siberia and the North of China from the Imperial Botanic Garden at St. Petersburg, through its Director, Dr. Ed. Regel.

Large and full collections of seeds of the trees and shrubs of Ohio and the neighboring States, from W. C. Hampton, Esq., of Mt. Victory, Ohio.

Large collections of seeds of the trees and shrubs of Virginia, from A. H. Curtiss, Esq., of Liberty, Virginia.

My thanks are due to Dr. Kellogg, of San Francisco, and to Dr. H. N. Bolander, late State Botanist of California, for extensive and valuable collections of Californian seed; and to J. G. Lemmon, Esq., of Sierra Valley, California, to whose energy and zeal I am indebted for a large quantity of seed of some of the rarer Californian Coniferae, and for many other valuable contributions.

My thanks are also due to Dr. C.C. Parry, of Davenport, Iowa, for seeds of the Rocky Mountain Conifers, and to Dr. George Engelmann, of St. Louis, for seeds of the rare *Abies concolor*, and of several species of Oak.

To T.S. Brandigee, Esq., of Canton City, Colorado, and to A.L. Siler, Esq., of Osmer, Kane Co., Utah, I am indebted for seeds of the trees of their respective localities, some of which are entirely new to cultivation.

I am also indebted to Messrs. Pinney & Co., of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, for coniferous seed; to Dr. J.H. Mellichamp, of Bluffton, South Carolina, for seeds of some of the rarer ligneous plants of that State; to [H.H. Hunnewell, Esq.](#), of Wellesley, Mass., for seed of the rare *Larix leptolepis*; to W. R. Mercer, Esq., of Doylestown, Penn., and to Mrs. Mary Treat, of Vineland, New Jersey, for seeds collected in their respective localities.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.
December 1, 1874