



Annual Report 1876-1877

To the President of the University:

Sir,

I have the honor to submit the following report upon the condition and progress of the botanic garden and Arboretum during the year ending August 31st, 1877.

ARBORETUM

The means at the disposal of the Director being inadequate to properly care for all the plants which had been raised for the Arboretum, it seemed better to select six of the best specimens of each species, and plant them in nurseries, rather than undertake to preserve more individuals than could be properly cultivated. This plan has been adopted, and the nurseries have been entirely re-arranged and replanted. They now contain, with the exception of some rare plants which are retained in numbers for exchange, but half a dozen specimens of each species: the remainder have been distributed to public and private establishments, both in the United States and Europe.

Judging from the immense number of letters which are annually sent me in regard to trees and tree-planting, it seems evident that there is a steadily increasing interest felt in arboriculture, which it should be the duty of the Arboretum to foster in every possible manner. The mere answering of the letters, communications, and inquiries received from nearly every State in the Union, and from almost all the countries of Europe, would have more than occupied my whole time; and they must have been neglected, had not Mr. Francis Skinner voluntarily assumed charge of this department, and relieved me of all correspondence of a merely routine description.

It is but five years since the first establishment of the Arboretum, but its influence and usefulness are already evident. To its establishment can be directly traced the planting during the past season of nearly half a million trees in the New England States alone. Through its influence attention has been called to the necessity of the more general cultivation of the American White Ash, a tree of the first economic value, and now rapidly disappearing from all but the more recently settled portions of the country. Up to the present year young Ash for general planting could not be procured either at home or abroad. They are now raised in such numbers as to be within reach of all. I have been able to demonstrate, also, that seedling forest trees, for which the Eastern States at least have largely depended on foreign nurseries, can be

produced at home equally well and at cheaper rates than abroad. So that, in the future, this business, which promises an immense development, will be a source of profit to American industry, while planters will be saved the risks and expenses which necessarily attend the importation of such perishable goods as living plants.

INTERCHANGE OF PLANTS AND SEEDS

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued during the year.

There have been 32,203 plants and 1,125 packets of seeds distributed, as follows: To all parts of the United States, 24,632 plants and 290 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 4,815 plants and 454 packets of seeds; to the Continent of Europe, 3,856 plants and 381 packets of seeds. Of the above, 7,126 seedling trees and shrubs have been distributed from the Arboretum to different portions of the United States, 1,785 to Great Britain, and 2,492 to the Continent of Europe.

There have been contributed to the Garden and Arboretum, during the year, 6,849 plants and 2,988 packets of seeds from 95 donors. Of these, 5,445 plants and 633 packets of seeds have been received from the United States; 312 plants and 1,105 packets of seeds from Great Britain; 1,081 plants and 1,046 packets of seeds from the Continent of Europe; 11 plants and 106 packets of seeds from Japan; 75 packets of seeds from the East Indies; 23 packets of seeds from the Cape of Good Hope; 5 plants from Bermuda; and 2 packets of seeds from China.

Among American contributions, the most important have been: a collection of the rarer plants of the higher Alleghenies, either new to cultivation or long lost from Gardens, from [Prof. Asa Gray](#); seeds of Japanese plants, including *Schizophragma* and a species of *Actinidia* and of many forest trees and herbaceous plants from President Clark of the Massachusetts Agricultural College; a collection of more than 2,500 specimens of New England plants, made by [Mr. Jackson Dawson](#); hardy plants from the Chicago Botanic Garden and from Messrs. Woolson & Co.; and various collections of stove and green-house plants from the Washington Botanic Garden and from Messrs. P.J. Berckmans and George Such; from Mrs. Mary Treat, many Florida plants; and from Dr. A.P. Garber, a large collection of all the North American species of *Tillandsia*, made by him in Southern Florida.

The most important foreign contributors have been: the Royal Gardens, Kew, economic plants, tropical orchids, and many seeds; the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, rare Asiatic trees and shrubs, and many seeds; the Imperial Botanic Garden, St. Petersburg, rare bulbs from Turkistan, and seeds; the Royal Botanic Gardens of Palermo and Edinburgh, seeds; Max Leichtlin, Baden Baden, many new bulbs and seeds; Le Comte de Paris, a collection of European terrestrial orchids. Contributions have also been made by the following European nurserymen: Anthony Waterer, a large collection of Ericaceous shrubs, and other trees; Veitch & Sons, seeds; Huber & Co., seeds; William Thompson, many large collections of seeds; and Haage & Schmidt, seeds of stove and green-house plants, trees, &c.

The Trustees of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture have continued, for the fourth time, their generous gift to the Garden of \$1,500; and this during the year they have supplemented by a further grant of \$1,000, for the use of the Arboretum, which, without this aid, would have been obliged, for want of sufficient income, to suspend further operations. It is again my duty to call attention to the fact that the liberality of the Trustees has alone made possible the increasing usefulness of this department of the University.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.