



## **Annual Report 1880-1881**

To the President of the University:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report upon the condition and progress of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending August 31, 1881:

No progress has been made during the in permanently arranging or planting the Arboretum. This work has again been delayed by the failure of the Government of the City of Boston to adopt the recommendation of its [Park Commissioners](#) for a joint occupancy of the Arboretum by the College and the City, on the plan suggested by [Mr. Fred Olmsted](#). While action in this matter had not been reached by the City Government, the expression of public opinion in favor of the scheme have been so strong and so frequent, and the popular interest in the Arboretum and in those branches of rural economy which it is intended to foster and develop has everywhere so increased, that it has not seemed wise to plant any portion of the collections, in view of the fact that the proposed plan, if carried into execution, must necessitate an entirely different arrangement of grounds and plantations.

As I pointed out a year ago, the permanent planting of a large number of trees specially raised for the Arboretum cannot be safely delayed much longer without serious loss; and unless the City is prepared to take definite action in the matter, some method should be devised without reference to the enjoyment or use of the Arboretum by the public.

The nurseries have been remodeled and replanted during the year and several important and interesting additions have been made to the number of plants now cultivated, although, owing to the crowded condition of the nursery grounds, no special effort has been made to increase these collections. When the older nursery plants can be permanently provided for in the Arboretum proper, the number of species and varieties cultivated can be immediately and at slight expense nearly doubled.

The nurseries are in excellent condition, and contain large numbers of rare plants, many now introduced into cultivation for the first time.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued through the year. There have been 4,834 plants and 477 packets of seeds distributed as follows: to all parts of the United States, 4,584 plants and 131 packets of seeds; to Great Britain, 13 plants and 106 packets of seeds; to the Continent of

Europe, 37 plants and 187 packets of seeds; to St. Helena, 200 plants; to Japan, 52 packets of seeds.

There have been contributed during the year 2,625 plants and 310 packets of seeds from 38 donors.

#### HERBARIUM AND MUSEUM

If the living collection has not gained during the year, the Herbarium and Museum have made substantial progress. The Herbarium is rich in North American species, especially in *Coniferae*, Oaks, and other arborescent genera represented by specimens largely collected by the Director and his associates in various journeys undertaken during the past two years for the purpose of studying the forests and the forest resources of the United States.

The Museum now contains an almost complete set of the woods, barks, fruits, and other products of the American forests; and is rich in sets of woods of the trees of Europe, Algeria, India, Australia, and other countries, received in exchange from the Royal Gardens, Kew.

The Museum and Herbarium still find temporary accommodation in the "Dwight House," Brookline, lent by Mr. Ignatius Sargent for the purpose. The detailed account of the operations in these departments will be found in the report of Mr. John Robinson, Assistant in charge, in the Appendix (IV.).

C. S. SARGENT, Director.