



Annual Report 1884-1885

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition and progress of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending August 31, 1890:

[The Park Commissioners of the city of Boston](#) have made some progress during the year towards completing their driveways through the Arboretum; and a road connecting the drive between Centre and South Street with the entrance at the corner of Bussey and Walter Streets has been sub-graded and the slopes roughly formed. This new road opens the most beautiful of the Arboretum grounds, including the portion devoted to the cone-bearing trees. Many of the most important groups of these trees were planted several years ago, in advance of the building of the road, and arrangement are already made to substantially finish planting the Pinetum during the coming year. The Commissioners have placed under contract the grading of another long section of road at the other end of the Arboretum. This is to be sub-graded and the slopes made during the autumn and early winter of 1890; and there is now a fair prospect that the whole system of city roads will be sub-graded and perhaps opened to the public in the course of the next three or four years.

No planting has been done during the year. All the trees that could be planted advantageously were planted several years ago; and without additional graded road-slopes there has been no opportunity to continue this work. In future, however, now that this difficulty seems likely to be removed, the planting can be pushed on as rapidly as the resources of the Arboretum will permit and the principal collections, at least, of the most important trees placed in permanent position.

The various collections already in place have grown satisfactorily during the year; and, in the case of some of the groups, begin to show the effects of the careful manner in which the trees were planted. Much attention has been given to studying and improving the special collection of shrubs, to which some important additions have been made during the year. This collection is already suffering from the want of proper space for the individual development of the plants of several genera; and it is not evident how this collection, which is thought to be unsurpassed, can be adequately provided for in the future. At present it is the most complete and therefore the most valuable feature in the Arboretum.

INTERCHANGE OF PLANTS AND SEEDS

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued throughout the year. There were distributed 20,937 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 810 packets of seeds, as follows:

To all parts of the United States, 20,468 plants and 236 packets of seeds; to Canada, 36 packets of seeds; to different European countries, 469 plants and 452 packets of seeds; to Japan, 86 packets of seeds.

There have been received during the year 2,047 plants and 382 packets of seeds. Among important contributions are plants and seeds from the Botanic Gardens at Kew, Paris, St. Petersburg, Tokio [*sic*], and Sapparo [*sic*], and plants from Ludwick Spathe of Rixdorf, Dr. A. Dieck of Zoeschen, Paul & Sons of Chesthunt, A. Waterer of Woking, Parsons & Co. of Flushing, Temple & Beard of Cambridge, and from many private gardens.

The routine work of the Herbarium and Museum has been continued during the year. There have been added to the collection 2,319 sheets of dry plants. The most important of these are a set (684 sheets) of the trees and shrubs cultivated in the gardens of southern France, prepared under the direction of Monsieur Charles Naudin, the director of the garden of the Villa Thuret at Antibes; a continuation of the set representing the plants of the Kew Arboretum and Chinese plants (in all, 487 sheets) from the Royal Gardens at Kew; a set of West Indian plants (648 sheets) from Baron H. F. Eggers of Copenhagen; plants of northern Mexico from Mr. C. G. Pringle, and of Lower California from Mr. T. S. Brandegee. Wood specimens to the number of 384 have been distributed during the year.

The first volume of *The Silva of North America*, a work upon which Mr. Faxon and I have been engaged for many years, has been published during the year. It contains the descriptions of twenty genera and thirty-four species of North American trees, illustrated with fifty plates. Fifty-two numbers of *Garden and Forest*, which must be considered the organ of the Arboretum, have been published during the year under my direction. The interesting new and little-known plants in the Arboretum collections are figured and described in its columns.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.
DECEMBER 2, 1890.