



Annual Report 1891-1892

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, 1892:

A larger amount of work has been done in the Arboretum during the year than in any other in its history. This has been made possible by generous gifts of money available for construction, made by Frederick L. Ames, John L. Gardner, and Arthur W. Blake.

The trees belonging to the Vetch family or *Leguminosae* and a few genera of the Ash family have been planted; and the border and roadside shrubberies have been extended. The principal work accomplished, however, has been in draining and grading in preparation for future planting, and its results will not appear for a year or two. The brook which enters the Arboretum at the Walter Street entrance has been deepened and widened for a distance of 1,675 feet, in order to secure drainage for the low ground in the western part of the Arboretum. The north side of Bussey Hill, or about fifteen acres of land which was planted several years ago with the collections of Birches, Elms, Catalpas, and Ashes, has been drained and graded, and is now ready to lay down in permanent lawn. About two thousand squares of peat have been dug and spread on the surface of the dry hills or stacked for future use; and the Goldsmith meadow near the principal entrance from Centre Street and the parkway has been drained by cutting wide channels through it to connect with the improved outlet made by the [Park Commissioners of the City of Boston](#). Of stone drains, 4,667 feet have been laid in different parts of the Arboretum, and 2,689 feet of open ditches have been made. The Walter Street drive, 1,800 feet in length, has been finished and opened to the public, and 2,000 feet of the drive around the north side of the Bussey Hill has been completed. The remaining drives are subgraded, and it now seems probable that the Park Commissioners of Boston will finish the whole system and open it to public use before the end of 1892.

The collections of living plants are in good condition, and the trees in the natural woods and in the systematically arranged groups have made satisfactory progress.

Instruction in dendrology of a popular character was given by [Mr. J. G. Jack](#), in May and June, who lectured to a class of thirty men and women, chiefly teachers. In future two courses of these lectures, one in the spring and one in the autumn, will be given in the Arboretum, to

meet the demand for exact information about trees and shrubs, which seems to be increasing in this country.

INTERCHANGE OF PLANTS AND SEEDS

The interchange of plants and seeds with other botanical and horticultural establishments has been continued. There were distributed 24,979 plants (including grafts and cuttings), and 633 packages of seeds as follows: To all parts of the United States, 24,732 plants and 25 packages of seeds; to Canada, 247 plants and 12 packages of seeds; to different European countries, 94 packages of seeds; to Japan, 27 packages of seeds. There have been received at the Arboretum 4,466 plants and 203 packages of seeds.

HERBARIUM AND MUSEUM

The museum and herbarium building, presented to the Arboretum by [Mr. Horatio Hollis Hunnewell](#), and described in my last report, has been completed and will be occupied early in the next college year. To carry out a resolution made long ago, I have transferred to the Arboretum my technical library, composed of works on dendrology, silviculture, forestry, systematic botany, and geography; and funds have been provided to complete it.

There have been added to the herbarium 350 sheets of dried plants during the year. The third and fourth volumes of *The Silva of North America*, carrying the work through Saxifragaceae, have appeared during the year, and fifty-two numbers of [Garden and Forest](#) have been published.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.