



Annual Report 1896-1897

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY:

SIR,

I have the honor to submit the following report on the progress and condition of the Arnold Arboretum during the year ending July 31st, 1897:

Two popular courses in dendrology have been given, principally to teachers, by [Mr. J. G. Jack](#), with an average attendance of thirty-one at the autumn lectures and forty at the spring lectures.

Want of money has stopped during the year all work for the improvement and extension of the Arboretum, and little has been done beyond necessary maintenance and the thinning of overcrowded woods and plantations. It is impossible to maintain the Arboretum, which is now one of the largest scientific gardens in the world, on a present income of about \$6,500 which is steadily decreasing; and it is evident that if it is to do the scientific work for which it was established and is now equipped, and to broaden its influence in popular education, the Arboretum will require a much larger income than that now derived from the James Arnold fund. The income of \$1,000,000 is needed to support the Arboretum, and develop its usefulness by research, exploration, and publication.

At the end of the year the trustees of the Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture signified their appreciation of the value of the Arboretum to the State of Massachusetts by devoting to its use the sum of \$2,500 annually for the next five years. Miss Abbie A. Bradley, in memory of her father William L. Bradley, about the same time established a University fund of \$20,000 on condition that its income should be expended at the Arboretum in increasing the knowledge of trees. These are important gifts, significant of a growing interest in the Arboretum and its work in this community. They still leave it, however, inadequately provided with money for the most necessary current expenses.

During the year the Park Commissioners of the City of Boston, under the provisions of their contract with the University, have defined and protected the entire eastern boundary of the Arboretum with a substantial granite wall. A large amount of work on the roads in the Peter's Hill extension of the Arboretum has already been done by the City of Boston, and it is now expected that they will be opened to the public before the end of 1898.

The interchange of plants and seeds with other horticultural establishments has been continued during the year. There have been 8,682 plants (including grafts and cuttings) and 759 packets of seeds distributed as follows: To the United States and Canada 8,657 plants and 314 packets of seeds; to Great Britain 118 packets of seeds; to the continent of Europe 25 plants

and 228 packets of seeds; to Australia 2 packets of seeds; to Japan 97 packets of seeds. There have been received during the year 1,726 plants (including cuttings and grafts) and 320 packets of seeds.

The growth of the herbarium during the year has been the largest in its history, 3,425 sheets of dried plants having been inserted. Among the important additions are 200 specimens of North American plants from the National Herbarium, 1,015 Central China and Formosa plants acquired by purchase from Dr. Augustine Henry, Pringle's Mexican plants, 613 sheets presented by the Botanic Garden at Calcutta, and 271 sheets collected by the Director in the west, where he passed the summer of 1895-96 as Chairman of commission appointed by the National Academy of Sciences to prepare a scheme for the protection and improvement of the forests on the public domain. 616 duplicate specimens have been distributed from the herbarium.

The library has received by gift 260 bound volumes, including 160 volumes of German forestry periodicals presented by Dr. C. A. Schenck of Biltmore, North Carolina, and 270 pamphlets.

During the year the tenth volume of *The Silva of North America*, with forty plates, has been published, and the eleventh volume has been passed through the press. Fifty-two numbers of *Garden and Forest* have been published during the year.

C. S. SARGENT, Director.