

# **THE STORY OF THE FOREST**

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The story of the forest by Gordon Dorrance

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**GORDON DORRANCE**

**THE STORY  
OF THE FOREST**





"I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills."

# THE STORY OF THE FOREST

BY

GORDON DORRANCE, F. E.

State Forest Commission  
Pennsylvania



AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY

NEW YORK

CINCINNATI

CHICAGO

TO MY TWO MOTHERS  
NATURE, WHO INSPIRED ITS UNDERTAKING, AND  
E. T. D., WHO INSPIRED ITS COMPLETION,  
THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY  
DEDICATED





## Preface

FROM earliest childhood the forest is a place of interest. It is first known as the mysterious haunt of some good fairy or wicked elf. Then it becomes a playground for youth; the scene of many vigorous rompings by the boys and of not a few of the quieter pastimes of the girls. Later it furnishes the shaded resort for picnics and excursions. It is a place preferred above all others by the devotees of gun and rod. To students of Nature and others of a thoughtful turn of mind, it is the sequestered retreat wherein is the atmosphere of inspiration to lofty purposes and high ideals.

The charm of the forest is not confined to any particular rank or body of people. The magnificence and splendor of its natural growth, the peace and quiet of its dusky recesses, the sights and sounds of its wild life — all have their irresistible appeal, not only to the keen student and ardent frequenter, but to the casual observer and chance visitor as well.

Even the most thickly populated and built-

up centers of civilization have a forest or wood, somewhere near at hand, which is ever offering opportunities for study and observation. Its lesson is perennial; its book lies always open.

With the design of telling the younger generation what the woodlands of this country are, and what they mean, this book has been prepared, chiefly for use in the schools. Much of what it contains is new and out of the beaten track of textbooks, but it is nevertheless important, especially at this time, when more attention is being concentrated upon subjects of practical importance. These earlier lessons being learned, pupils will be in a position to take an advanced step in nature study and in that other subject, very closely allied to it, American forestry.

It is desired here to express appreciation to Mr. J. M. Daiger for criticisms of the book, and to Mr. D. D. Bronson, Dr. F. W. Besley, Mr. K. E. Pfeiffer and the United States Forest Service for courtesies and assistance which were of value in securing many of the illustrations.

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