

TREES AND SHRUBS OF PROSPECT PARK

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Trees and shrubs of Prospect Park by Louis Harman Peet

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LOUIS HARMAN PEET

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OF PROSPECT PARK**

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By LOUIS HARMAN PEET



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To My Wife
N · M · P ·

PREFACE.

THIS book has been prepared to aid the city nature lovers who frequent our beautiful Park in identifying its trees and shrubs by diagrams of location and text description. Its need grew out of actual experience and it is hoped that its service will be direct and practical.

How many there are who come to our Park to whom the trees are simply trees and the shrubs, bushes. The individuality of the oak, the hornbeam, or the maple is lost to them in the general mass. Many of these would gladly learn had they the time or opportunity and to meet the needs of such and also to supplement mere identification with descriptions of characteristics of form, foliage, flower and fruit, has been the governing purpose in the general plan of preparing this book. Its method is self-evident and the park rambler, following the paths, soon gets to recognize the various *types* of trees and shrubs. These grow more and more distinctive and individual as their observed characteristics become more familiar to him and he finds out that when these have been once learned thoroughly, not only has he learned them for Prospect Park, but for Central Park, and, in short, for the parks of most cities of climatic conditions similar to ours.

Of course, in using this book, it must be borne in mind that it would be utterly impossible to locate

every tree and shrub passed along the Walks, on the sectional diagrams. Only those mentioned in the descriptive text are plotted and in using the diagrams to locate these care in judging distances should be exercised. To attempt to plot, on diagrams of the scales used in this book, every tree or shrub along the pathside would result in a mass of black spots from which it would be impossible to distinguish anything. It was therefore thought best to locate *some* of the *representative types* clearly and distinctly rather than to attempt to locate *all* from which *none* could be definitely found. Try to find shrubs or trees on the diagrams at easily distinguishable points and work from these to others, verifying, as you go along, by the descriptive text. If you find you have not judged the distances rightly, the descriptive text should act as a check upon you to set you right.

To further assist the user of this hand-book in the identification of the representative dots upon the diagrams various landmarks, such as lamp-posts, statues, tablets, arches, rustic shelters have been extensively marked and these will serve to rectify wrong or to reassure correct judgments of distancing.

So let the lover of nature, who walks here in his leisure hours take up the study of these beautiful trees and shrubs with the determined purpose of *knowing* them. In the knowing of them this book can be but a suggestive aid. If you would get the most from it, follow up its hints in your botanical text and reference books. Indeed this is the proper way to use the book. It is intended to show you a *little* and then

you yourself must do *more* by following up the hint, enlarging your knowledge by wider studies of the details of bud, flower, leaf, bark and general characteristics of habits of growth.

For this further study of details, the author strongly recommends the use of such excellent text-books as Gray's Field, Forest and Garden Botany, revised by L. H. Bailey, Keeler's Our Native Trees (which is equipped with excellent photographs), Apgar's Trees of the Northern United States, Dame and Brooks's Hand-book of the Trees of New England. Any of these makes a good field book to take with you on your rambles. If you wish to go further, the following larger works will be found of great practical value: Loudon's Cyclopaedia of Trees, Bailey's Cyclopaedia of Horticulture, Sargent's Silva of North America, Britton and Brown's Flora of the Northeastern United States, Emerson's Report on the Trees and Shrubs of Massachusetts. These can be consulted in any good sized library.

In the preparation and completion of this book the author wishes to express his thanks for many courtesies extended by Commissioner Richard Young of the Park Department and for much practical aid and valuable suggestions most cordially given by Mr. John Whalley, Arboriculturist of Prospect Park and Mr. Edward Kasold, Foreman Tree Planter of Prospect Park.

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