

**ESSAY ON THE TREES AND SHRUBS OF  
THE ANCIENTS: BEING THE SUBSTANCE  
OF FOUR LECTURES DELIVERED BEFORE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, INTENDED  
TO BE SUPPLEMENTARY TO THOSE ON  
ROMAN HUSBANDRY**

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Essay on the Trees and Shrubs of the Ancients: Being the Substance of Four Lectures Delivered before the University of Oxford, Intended to Be Supplementary to Those on Roman Husbandry by C. Daubeny

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**C. DAUBENY**

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ALREADY PUBLISHED.

BY

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.



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## PREFACE.

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THE late Professor Sibthorp, in founding a Chair of Rural Economy to be attached to that of Botany already existing in the University of Oxford, directed that the Holder of that Office should deliver each Term a Lecture on some one of the subjects which the Professorship in question might be regarded as embracing.

In conformity to this regulation, I have, besides placing before my hearers from time to time the newest views on the theory of Agriculture which modern science had developed, given occasionally such sketches of the Husbandry of the Ancients, as could be gathered from the *Scriptores Rei Rusticæ* whose writings have come down to us.

The latter have since been embodied in a work published by me in 1857, entitled "Lectures on Roman Husbandry," in which I presented "an account of the System of Agriculture, of the Treatment of Domestic Animals, and of the Horticulture pursued in Ancient Times," concluding with notices "of the Plants mentioned in Columella and Virgil."

To this Publication the present Lectures may be

regarded as supplementary, containing, as they do, a summary of the best information I have been able to collect as to the Trees and Shrubs really intended by those described or noticed in the principal Greek and Roman writers.

For this purpose I have availed myself, not only of the researches of Dr. Sibthorp himself, and of the old commentaries on Theophrastus and Dioscorides, which were accessible at the time he left the materials for his *Prodromus Floræ Græcæ*, but also of various works on the Flora of the Ancients, which had appeared in Great Britain, France, and Germany at a period more recent.

Amongst the latter may be particularised the two Paris editions of Pliny, the one in 10 vols., published in 1827, under the auspices of Cuvier, Desfontaines, and other eminent French naturalists, the other, with a French translation, in 20 vols., undertaken by Pancoucke in 1829—37, and edited by Grandsagne, with the assistance of several well-known naturalists, but of which the botanical part was chiefly contributed by M. A. L. à Fee; and also the English translation of the same Author by Dr. Bostock and H. T. Riley, Esq., brought out by Mr. Henry Bohn in 1855, which is enriched with a number of useful explanatory notes, for which the Editor has been greatly indebted to the French author last mentioned.

I may also mention Sprengel's *Historia Rei Her-*

*bariæ*; the *Flore de Théocrite* and *Flore de Virgile* of the same Mons. Fee; the *Flore Poétique Ancienne*, by J. B. Du Molin, Paris, 1856; Billerbeck's *Flora Classica*, Leipsic, 1824; Dierbach's *Flora Apiciana*, Heidelberg, 1830; Fraas, *Synopsis Plantarum Floræ Classicæ*, München, 1845; and Lenz, *Botanik der alten Griechen und Römer*, Gotha, 1859.

With the assistance of these and other appliances, it has been my endeavour to affix modern synonymes to as many as possible of the Trees and Shrubs alluded to by Classical writers, although in consequence of the vagueness of their descriptions, and the loose manner in which they noted the characters of the plants that came under their observation, I have found it scarcely within my power, except in the case of a few conspicuous and important species, to do more, than point out with some degree of probability the Natural Family, or at most the Genus, to which the classical designation appeared intended to apply.

Upon the whole, I venture to hope, that this little Work, in conjunction with the "Lectures on Roman Husbandry" which preceded it, will be found to embrace an identification of a greater number of Greek and Roman plants than is contained in any former English Publication; although I must in fairness inform my readers, that a still larger list is included in more than one of those German writings which have been already referred to in



this Preface, and that with regard to Pliny, the French edition in 20 vols., as well as the English Translation referred to, contain a reference to many which, being herbaceous, have not fallen within the scope of the present volume.

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