

**OUR WOODLANDS, HEATHS, AND
HEDGES: A POPULAR DESCRIPTION
OF TREES, SHRUBS, WILD, FRUITS,
ETC., WITH NOTICES OF THEIR
INSECT INHABITANTS**

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with Notices of Their Insect Inhabitants by W. S. Coleman

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W. S. COLEMAN

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OUR WOODLANDS,
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A POPULAR DESCRIPTION OF
TREES, SHRUBS, WILD FRUITS, ETC.
WITH NOTICES OF THEIR INSECT INHABITANTS.

BY W. S. COLEMAN,
MEMBER OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Illustrated by the Author.



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P R E F A C E.

IN that pleasant and popular little work by the Rev. J. G. Wood, entitled "Common Objects of the Country," the author has proved how lively an interest may be imparted by a familiar yet accurate account of some of the most ordinary productions of nature, such as are daily to be seen around us,—the subjects so happily treated of in its pages being selected almost exclusively from among the insect tribes and minor animals. The limited compass of a pocket volume could, however, embrace a small proportion only of the multitudinous objects which give animation to the country, while many departments of natural history, both in the animal and vegetable kingdoms, were necessarily omitted altogether.

It occurred to the publishers of the above-mentioned work, that, among the various rural topics thus left open, the subject of "*British Trees and Shrubs*," though naturally one of prominent interest, was yet one on which there existed no illustrated work apart from the encyclopædic form; and therefore, in the belief that a

popular treatise supplying this manifest *desideratum*, would prove to be generally acceptable, they applied to the writer of the present volume to undertake the execution of their projected design. His own experience confirms the very general belief that the majority of ramblers in the country, even inclusive of those furnished with some general botanical knowledge, are usually quite at a loss, when called upon to name the various wild trees and shrubs they meet with, or how to discriminate between them. Most people can, certainly, recognize the *Oak*, especially if they get a sight of its acorns. Some, too, will probably call an *Elm* by its right name, and so with three or four others of our most familiar trees; but as to the distinction between the *Beech* and the *Hornbeam*, for instance, they will probably be quite at fault, or only make a vague guess at most; while the less frequent trees are to them utterly nameless and unknown. Although the knowledge of names merely is a very poor acquisition, yet it is obvious enough that the first essential step in the acquirement of useful information concerning any object, is, to clearly identify that object with its name. It has been the special object of the writer to convey, by the simplest means—literary and pictorial—an accurate knowledge of the various Trees and Shrubs indigenous to Britain, as well as of their uses, beauties, and attributes; and in order to enhance the interest of the subject, he has added notes on some of the animal inhabitants and insect tribes, whose history is often

most intimately connected with that of the plants they attach themselves to.

A few trees have also been introduced which, though really of foreign origin, have become so thoroughly naturalized on our soil, and from their character are so identified in our minds as native productions, as to rank harmoniously with the older denizens, of English forests and woodlands.

LONDON, *April*, 1859.

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