

**THE FORESTS OF
ENGLAND AND THE
MANAGEMENT OF THEM
IN BYE-GONE TIMES**

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The Forests of England and the Management of Them in Bye-Gone Times by John Croumbie Brown

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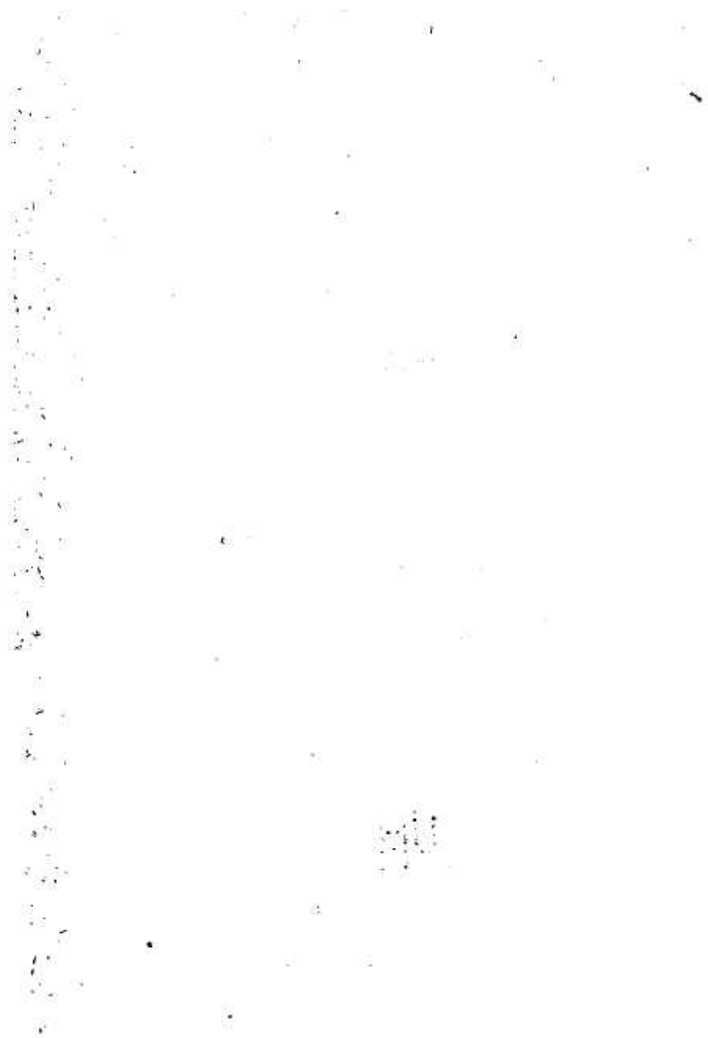
JOHN CROUMBIE BROWN, LL.D.,

Formerly Government Botanist at the Cape of Good Hope, and Professor of Botany in the South African College, Capetown, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Fellow of the Linnean Society, and Honorary Vice-President of the African Institute of Paris, etc.



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1883.



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In the spring of 1877 I published a *brochure* entitled *The Schools of Forestry in Europe: a Plea for the Erection of a School of Forestry in connection with the Arboratum in Edinburgh*. It was addressed "To the Right Honourable the Lord Provost, the Magistrates, and Town Councillors of Edinburgh; to the Office-Bearers of the Scottish Arboricultural Society; to the Promoters of the purchase of ground at Inverleith, to be transferred to Government, for the formation of an Arborotum; and all others whom it may concern."

In this Plea I had occasion to state:—

"I went to the Cape of Good Hope to act as Colonial Botanist in the beginning of 1863. On my arrival I was officially informed that the office had been created some five years before with the two-fold object (1) of ascertaining and making generally known the economic resources of the Colony, as regards its indigenous vegetable productions, and its fitness for the growth of valuable exotic trees and other plants; and (2) of perfecting our knowledge of the flora of South Africa, and thus contributing to the advancement of botanical science.

"On making my first tour of the Colony to see its flora and its capabilities, I found myself face to face with

difficulty in the way of the development of these capabilities, arising from a reckless destruction of forests and forest products which was going on, and a progressive desiccation of the climate, accompanying or following the destruction of forests and the burning of herbage and bush in connection with agricultural operations and pastoral husbandry. And I knew not then, nor do I know now, of a single work published in England from which I could then procure information in regard to the treatment required by aboriginal forests, to secure their conservation and improvement, excepting 'The Forests and Gardens of South India,' by Dr Cleghorn, then Conservator of Forests in the Madras Presidency; 'The Forester,' by Dr James Brown; 'The *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum*,' by Loudon; and 'English Forests and Forest Trees,' an anonymous work published by Ingram, Cooke, and Co., London. But none of these supplied the information I required.

"Contrast with this the richness of Continental languages in literature on such subjects. I have had sent to me lately '*Ofvernight of Svenska Skogslitteraturen, Bibliografiska Studieren of Axel Cnattingius*,' a list of many books and papers on Forest Science published in Sweden; I have also had sent to me a work by Don José Jordana y Morera, Ingeniero de Montes, under the title of '*Apuntes Bibliographic Forestale*,' a catalogue raisonné of 1126 printed books, MSS., &c., in Spanish, on subjects connected with Forest Science.

"I am at present preparing for the press a report on measures adopted in France, Germany, Hungary, and elsewhere, to arrest and utilise drift-sand by planting them with grasses and trees; and in *Der Europäische*

Flug-sand und Seine Cultur, von Josef Wessely General-Domänen-Inspektor, und Forst-Academie-Direktor, published in Vienna in 1873, I find a list of upwards of 100 books and papers on that one department of the subject, of which 30, in Hungarian, Latin, and German, were published in Hungary alone.

“According to the statement of one gentleman, to whom application was made by a representation of the Government at the Cape, for information in regard to what suitable works on Forest Economy could be procured from Germany, the works on *Forst-Wissenschaft*, Forest Science, and *Forst-Wirthechaft*, Forest Economy, in the German language may be reckoned by cartloads. From what I know of the abundance of works in German, on subjects connected with Forestry, I am not surprised that such a report should have been given. And with the works in German may be reckoned the works in French.

“In Hermann Schmidt's *Fach Katalogue*, published in Prague last year (1876), there are given the titles, &c., of German works in *Forst und Jagd-Literatur*, published from 1870 to 1875 inclusive, to the 31st of October of the latter year, amounting in all to 650, exclusive of others given in an appendix, containing a selection of the works published prior to 1870. They are classified thus:—General Forest Economy, 93; Forest Botany, 60; Forest History and Statistics, 50; Forest Legislation and Game Laws, 56; Forest Mathematics, 25; Forest Tables and Measurements, &c., 148; Forest Technology, 6; Forest Zoology, 19; Peat and Bog Treatment, 14; Forest Calendars, 6; Forest and Game Periodicals, 27; Forest Union and Year Books, 13; Game, 91; Forest and Game in Bohemian, 44.

In all, 652. Upwards of a hundred new works had been published annually. Amongst the works mentioned is a volume entitled *Die Literatur der letzten sieben Jahre* (1862-1872) *aus dem Gesamtgebiete der Land und Forst-wirtschaft mit Einschluss der landw. Gewerbe u. der Jagd, in deutscher, französischer u. englischer sprache* Herausg. v. d. Buchhandl. v. Gerold and Co., in *Wien*, 1873, a valuable catalogue filling 278 pages in large octavo."

This volume is published as a small contribution to the literature of Britain, on subjects pertaining to Forest Science.

It is after due consideration that the form given to the work—that of a compilation of what has been stated in works previously published—has been adopted.

It will be followed by another—now in the press—a translation of the famous Forest Ordinance of France of 1669, with notices of the previous treatment of Forests in that country.

JOHN C. BROWN.

HADDINGTON, 1st March, 1883.

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