

**PARSONS ON THE ROSE: A  
TREATISE ON THE  
PROPAGATION, CULTURE,  
AND HISTORY OF THE ROSE**

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Parsons on the Rose: A Treatise on the Propagation, Culture, and History of the Rose by Samuel Bowne Parsons

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# PARSONS ON THE ROSE.

A TREATISE ON THE

Propagation, Culture, and History of the Rose.

BY

SAMUEL B. PARSONS.

NEW AND REVISED EDITION.

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## PREFACE.



In offering a new edition of this work, the preparation of which gave us pleasure more than twenty years ago, we have not only carefully revised the garden classification, but have stricken out much of the poetry, which to the cultivator may have seemed irrelevant if not worthless.

For the interest of the classical scholar we have retained much of the early history of the Rose, and its connection with the manners and customs of the two great nations of a former age.

For many interesting facts in the History and Culture of the Rose, we are indebted to Deslongchamps, Vibert, Laffay, and several anonymous writers. To the former we wish most fully to express our obligations, both for the plan of this work and for many interesting facts and researches, to which we cannot conveniently attach his name in the body of the work.

Upon the classification we have bestowed much thought, and although we do not feel quite satisfied with the system we have adopted, it is the best that occurs to us in the present condition of rose culture. The amateur will, we

think, find the labor of selection much diminished by the increased simplicity of the mode we have adopted, while the commercial gardener will in nowise be injured by the change.

In directions for culture, we give the results of our own experience, and have not hesitated to avail ourselves of any satisfactory results in the experience of others, which might enhance the utility of the work.

We do not claim exemption from criticism in any form, and readily express our willingness to be ever open to conviction, in a field where, among the varied results of experiment and skill, there is much room for difference of opinion.

For our labor we shall feel abundantly compensated, if the republication of this work shall in any way tend to produce a more general admiration and increased culture of the most beautiful flower known.

S. B. P.



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# PARSONS ON THE ROSE.

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## CHAPTER I.

### BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION.

The Rose is a shrub or dwarf tree, with mostly deciduous foliage, and large, beautiful, and fragrant flowers. Its branches are slender, almost always armed with thorns, thinly furnished with leaves, which are alternate upon the stem. Its leaves are pinnate, and vary in color and character, from the rich, dark green, and somewhat rough leaf of La Reine, to the glossy smoothness and rich purple edge of Chromatella. The blossoms are variously arranged at the extremity of the newly formed branches. The calyx is single and tubular, swelling at its lower part, contracted at its opening, and divided at the edge into five lance-pointed divisions, which are whole or pinnatifid. The corolla is inserted at the mouth of the tube of the calyx, and is composed of five heart-shaped petals, which constitute the Rose in its single or natural state. The double blossoms are formed by the change of the stamens and pistils into petals or flower leaves, shorter than those of the corolla proper. The fruit or seed vessel, or *hip*, is formed by the tube of the calyx, which becomes plump and juicy, globular or oviform, having but one cell, and containing numerous small, one-seeded, dry