

Francis Parkman as Horticulturist

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Samuel Eliot Morison, in the sketch that introduced *The Parkman Reader*, selected from the historical writings of Francis Parkman, remarked that "it used to be a joke in Boston that visiting Englishmen and Frenchmen asked to be presented to Mr. Parkman the historian, while the first person whom visitors from the Netherlands wished to see was Mr. Parkman the horticulturist." This dual career sprang, in an unpredictable combination, from the unusual circumstances of Francis Parkman's life and health. He was born in Boston on 16 September 1823 into a family of old Puritan stock that was both solvent and cultivated. His father, Francis Parkman of the Harvard class of 1807, was from 1813 to 1849 minister of the New North Church in Hanover Street, the handsome Bulfinch meeting house that in 1862 became St. Stephen's Roman Catholic Church. This Unitarian clergyman, who was a Harvard Overseer from 1819 to 1849, received the honorary degree of S.T.D. from the University in 1834. As the North End was becoming unfashionable, he preferred to live near Bowdoin Square, where his father, Samuel Parkman, a substantial shipowner and East India merchant, had a spacious house and garden between Chardon and Green Streets. In 1835, after the death of his mother, the Reverend Francis Parkman took over his father's house.

His son Francis Parkman was so high-strung a child that at the age of eight he was sent to live in Medford with his maternal grandfather, Nathaniel Hall, whose property adjoined the wild, rocky area that later became the Middlesex Fells Reservation. For four years the boy attended a local private school in Medford; out of hours he roamed in the woods, trapped squirrel and woodchuck, and generally acquired a taste for the wilderness. Even when he returned to his family in Boston at the age of twelve, he had more of the outdoors around him than was usual in the city, for behind Samuel Parkman's house, to which

his parents soon moved, were extensive terraced gardens, devoted to the cultivation of fruit trees, especially the Bergamot pear.

Just before his seventeenth birthday in 1840 Francis Parkman entered Harvard college with the class of 1844. He was a highly energetic, sociable, lively, and handsome young man. In later life his friends were struck by his resemblance to the Venetian equestrian statue of the Condottiere Colleoni; if one sought an analogy closer to home one might suggest that he had the pronounced jaw that characterizes many Saltonstalls. A member of an undergraduate literary club to which Parkman belonged recalled that he "even then showed symptoms of 'Injuns on the brain.' His tales of border life, his wampum, scalps, and birch-bark were unsurpassed by anything in Cooper." Parkman himself recalled: "All my summer vacations were passed in the forests chiefly those between Maine and Canada, or in Canada itself — or else in examining the scenes of battles, raids, and skirmishes in the various French and Indian wars." As a sophomore he sought the advice of Professor Jared Sparks, the first teacher of American history at Harvard, on historical sources concerning the Seven Years' War. Thus, at eighteen, between forests and books, his thoughts "crystallized into a plan of writing the story of what was then known as the 'Old French War,' that is, the war that ended in the conquest of Canada. . . . My theme fascinated me, and I was haunted by wilderness images day and night." Soon he "enlarged the plan to include the whole course of the American conflict between France and England, or, in other words, the history of the American forest." Parkman's zest for outdoor life led him during his summer wilderness holidays to feats of energy that wore out his companions. Such excess of activity, combined with hard study, having brought on a physical breakdown early in his senior year, his parents sent him to the Mediterranean for his health. Although he returned from Europe only in time to take final examinations, he received his A.B. on time in 1844, standing in the top third of his class and being elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He then entered the Harvard Law School, and received his LL.B. in 1846, fitting in between his two years of law a summer journey to the Great Lakes to see the physical scenes of the first book that he planned to write, *The Conspiracy of Pontiac*. Over forty years later he wrote: "The best characteristic of my books is, I think, that their subjects were largely studied from real life."



Francis Parkman at 20 years of age.

In May 1846 Parkman's cousin, Quincy A. Shaw, who was setting out on a hunting expedition in the Rocky Mountains, asked him to come along. The expedition, which gave Parkman adventure, acquaintance with a new frontier, and first hand sight of Sioux warriors on their own ground, provided unique experience with Indians and the wilderness. It also, through over-exertion, permanently undermined his health. By the time he returned home in October he was unable to use his eyes, and constantly suffered from insomnia and raging headaches. This second breakdown was particularly galling for a man who so prized robustness and strenuous activity. The remaining forty-seven years of his life were an unremitting struggle against the ills that he personified as "the enemy". Living in a darkened room, unable to read, he drafted the record of his Western travels with the help of a sister or friend who read his rough notes aloud and took down his dictation. So the account of this "tour of curiosity and amusement", which had had a serious purpose for him, reached book publication in 1849 as *The Oregon Trail*. Although "for about three years, the light of day was insupportable, and every attempt at reading or writing completely debarred", he bravely tackled *The Conspiracy of Pontiac*, relying upon faithful helpers to read him the as-

sembled sources and take down his drafts. Gradually “the enemy” retreated. By means of a frame with parallel wires placed over a sheet of paper, he became able to write slowly. In spite of these obstacles the book was completed in two years and a half, and published in two volumes in 1851, dedicated to his teacher Jared Sparks, by then president of Harvard.

By 1850 Parkman’s health had so improved that on 13 May he married Catherine Scollay, daughter of Dr. Jacob Bigelow of Boston. A daughter was born in 1851 and a son, Francis, in 1853. The marriage proved an extremely happy one. Although they started housekeeping with an annual income of only a few hundred dollars, their finances soon improved, for after the death of his father in 1852 Parkman inherited property that made him comfortably off the remainder of his life. He soon bought three acres of land on the shore of Jamaica Pond, where, in a relatively modest cottage, they lived in the late spring, summer, and autumn, returning to Boston only for the winter months. Yet “the enemy” plagued even this happy scene, for in the autumn of 1851 Parkman had had an attack of water on the left knee, which led to almost permanent lameness. To give him an interest that would occupy him when physical pain kept him from intellectual concentration, his wife — as Henry Dwight Sedgwick noted in an early biography — “had given



him the suggestion, 'Frank, with all your getting, get roses.' Up he got and made a garden of roses. He had three acres, his man Michael, such enrichment of the soil as a horse, a cow, and a pig could supply, a few garden implements, and a wheeled chair, or in happy seasons a cane; with these he grew his beautiful roses." Parkman's knee complaint returned in force in the spring of 1853, incapacitating him completely for two years. A gardener's life at Jamaica Pond proved beneficial, however, for in 1855 he was back at his desk, working again on his great project concerning the French colonization of North America. He had not completed a volume, however, when even more severe blows fell. Young Francis, his only son, died in 1857 when only four years old; the boy's mother, who never completely recovered from this loss, died the following year, not long after giving birth to a second daughter. This dual tragedy precipitated another return of "the enemy". Gravely ill again, Parkman returned to Boston with his two motherless daughters to live with his widowed mother and unmarried sister Eliza at 8 Walnut Street.

In 1859 he went to Paris for medical treatment. Although specialists there achieved some improvement in his eyes and knee his recovery was never complete. Parkman's Harvard classmate Edward Wheelwright recalled how "when crippled by disease and needing two canes to support his steps, he might often be seen in the streets of Boston, walking rapidly for a short distance, then suddenly stopping, wheeling round, and propping himself against the wall of a house, to give a moment's repose to his enfeebled knee. Whatever he did, he must do it with all his might. He could not saunter, he could not creep: he must move rapidly, or stand still."

On returning from Paris, he went to Jamaica Pond, where his sister Eliza kept house for him and his daughters for over half of each year. To occupy himself in time of grief, when he could no longer concentrate on historical work, Parkman turned to horticulture. This, too, he did with all his might. Edward Wheelwright thus recalled his house: "It stood on rising ground, close to the shore of Jamaica Pond. Here he had his gardens and green-houses, and here he came early in the spring, and remained late in the autumn of every year. He kept on the pond a boat, into which he could step from his garden, and obtain in rowing the exercise that was essential to him when walking was difficult and painful. Frequent friendly visits to a muskrat, his neighbor on the shore of the pond, added to the pleasure he took in his boat. It was pleasant to

visit him in his garden. He took not only pride in his flowers, but loved them, speaking of their characters, their habits, their caprices, as though they were sentient beings.”

Francis Parkman’s extraordinary energy and determination soon carried him into other fields of horticulture than his first love of roses. Howard Doughty in his 1962 biography of Parkman wrote: “Already in 1861, only a year or so after he had started gardening, his success was notable enough to put him in possession of a unique collection, his development of which, together with his work as a rosarian, gave him a permanent name in the annals of American horticulture. This was a collection of Japanese plants — the first of its kind to arrive in America — made in Yokohama by the botanist George B. Hall, and turned over to Parkman by his college mate and neighbor, Francis Lee, on Lee’s departure for the war. Among other specimens, the collection contained the double-blossomed apple, now known as the Parkman crab, and bulbs of the *Lilium auratum*, which he was the first known person in America or Europe to bring to flowering outside Japan. With such material to work on, he devoted himself particularly to the hybridization of lilies, his chief triumph in this field being the *Lilium parkmanni*, a crossing of *L. auratum* with another Japanese stock, which he sold in 1876 to an English florist for one thousand dollars. But he was also among the foremost of American rose-growers. He is said to have had at one time over a thousand varieties in his garden, and *The Book of Roses*, which he published in 1866, was for many years a standard manual of the subject.”

The extent of Francis Parkman’s gardening and growing briefly tempted him into business, for in 1862 he formed a partnership with William H. Spooner, a nurseryman specializing in roses, who was active in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. On 4 April 1862 he wrote to his cousin-in-law, Mary Dwight Parkman, then in Europe: “I am daily here — in Jamaica Plain — and am at last really busy, having formed a partnership with Spooner which will absorb all the working faculties I have left. So you find me a man of business. I am content with the move, & resolved to give the thing a fair trial and, by one end of the horn or the other, work a way out of a condition of helplessness. At all events, this is my best chance, & I will give it a trial. Spooner wants me to go to England & France in the Fall, to look up new plants. The thing has difficulties & risks, not a few under my circumstances; but it is attractive, & doubly so as it gives me a prospect of meeting you. So I cherish it, as probably an illusion, but still a very pleasing one.” Parkman did not go to Europe in the autumn, as Spooner

had proposed; indeed the partnership in the nursery business was of the briefest duration.

Matters were quite different with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, then located in its first Horticultural Hall in School Street on the site of part of the present Parker House. For several years Parkman had been exhibiting there; Howard Doughty notes that he won over three hundred awards from the society between 1859 and 1884. In 1863 when he became chairman of its library committee, he vigorously underlined the importance of that aspect of the society's work. In his first report Parkman made this classic statement: "To despise the aid of books is no evidence either of practical skill or good sense. This is particularly true of horticulture, in which the men of greatest practical eminence have without exception been those possessing the recorded knowledge of their predecessors or contemporaries. Horticulture is an art based on the broad principles of science, and has never found its most successful cultivators among those who have blindly ignored those principles." When the society moved in 1865 to the second Horticultural Hall in Tremont Street (between Bromfield and Bosworth Streets) Parkman asserted that the library, which extended across the entire front of the second floor, "may be said to bear to this noble building the relation which the brain bears to the body."

To a man who idolized courage and physical endurance as Parkman did, it was shattering to remain at home tending plants as his friends went into the Union Army. In September 1862 he spent a day and a night in camp at Readville with the Forty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry, of which Frank Lee, who had given him the Japanese plants, was colonel, and which numbered some forty Harvard alumni among its officers and men. Returning home he wrote of "the banners I was not to follow, the men I was not to lead, the fine fellows of whom I could not be one." But as he worked with his plants, his spirits and strength so returned that he began to dream of asking Louis Agassiz's daughter, Ida, to become his second wife, although carefully avoiding "the expression to her of anything beyond a simple though a very cordial friendship." Her marriage on 5 December 1863 to a dashing cavalryman, Major Henry Lee Higginson, who had returned to Boston to convalesce from severe wounds, ended such hopes for all time. Parkman remained a widower, bringing up his daughters with the aid of his sister. Despite such disappointments, Parkman's ceaseless activity with horticulture so benefited his health and spirits that before the

end of the Civil War he was again at work on his great historical project that he had set himself as an undergraduate two decades before. In March 1865 Little, Brown & Co. gave him proofs of *The Pioneers of France in the New World*, the first of six parts of *France and England in North America*.

Thenceforth he advanced steadily with the project, which was completed in nine volumes in 1892. This fortunate return to history did not mean the abandonment of horticulture, for he published *The Book of Roses* in 1866 and devoted his leisure to growing and hybridizing plants. Between 1867 and 1872 he published not only the second and third parts of *France and England in North America* but twenty-six articles in Tilton's *American Journal of Horticulture*. His historical friends understood the role that horticulture had played in his life. The Canadian historian, the Abbé Casgrain, who visited Parkman in May 1871, noted that, after his severe illness, "what agreed with him best was the cultivation of his garden, which he first oversaw while remaining seated near his employees. When his strength began to return, he tried to work with his own hands, while seated for the most part of the time in a folding chair. In this position he would cut his plants and the edge of his flower beds, or weed the ground nearby." The Abbé Casgrain was impressed by the tasteful simplicity of Francis Parkman's home at Jamaica Pond. He recalled particularly how "the interior of the cottage corresponded to the exterior; everything was comfortable, but no display of luxury. What I most observed, and comes back to me when my thought returns to that American home, was the perfume of flowers spread through all the rooms. Everywhere there were very beautiful bouquets, or rather bunches, composed principally of rhododendrons of the most delicate rose tints."

Soon after the Abbé Casgrain's visit, Parkman began the renovation and substantial enlargement of his Jamaica Pond cottage. The region now had an additional attraction for him, for in the spring of 1871 he had been appointed Professor of Horticulture at Harvard's Bussey Institution. This new undergraduate school of husbandry and gardening, which opened to students in September 1871, was located on a farm in the Jamaica Plain-Forest Hills section of West Roxbury, scarcely a mile from Parkman's house. On thus becoming an active member of the Harvard faculty, he resigned from the Board of Overseers, on which he had served since 1868, on the ground that it seemed "essentially unfit that the member of a supervisory body should himself be one of those whom it is his duty to super-

wise." Although Parkman planned and oversaw the building of greenhouses for the new institution, his career as a professor was almost as brief as that of a commercial nurseryman a decade earlier, for he resigned at the end of the academic year. The death of his mother in August 1871, followed by that of a beloved brother in January 1872, brought on a period of illness that made him feel unable to offer the course on plant propagation and the management of hothouses, nurseries, and gardens that the Harvard catalogue had announced for the following year.

Paradoxically one might claim that Francis Parkman's greatest contribution to horticulture was his resignation from the Harvard faculty, for his successor as Professor of Horticulture was the thirty-one-year-old Charles Sprague Sargent who created the Arnold Arboretum and ruled it until his death fifty-five years later. Although the evidence is only circumstantial, I firmly believe that Parkman must have played a crucial part in the selection of his successor. Otherwise, how would a young man who had stood eighty-eighth in his class of ninety on his graduation have reappeared ten years later on the Harvard scene as Professor of Horticulture? This then undistinguished scholar had entered the Union Army, which Parkman would have dearly loved to have done; made an extended Grand Tour of Europe, as Parkman had done before him more briefly, and settled down on his father's estate in Brookline, close to Parkman's smaller one, to occupy himself with horticulture, which was then a rich man's amusement rather than a profession. Parkman was thoroughly at home in the administrative stratosphere of a simpler Harvard, where people knew each other as they cannot today. He was re-elected to the Board of Overseers in 1874, and became a member of the seven-man Corporation in 1875, where he served until 1888. There being no body of professional candidates to draw from, President Charles W. Eliot had the previous year, when rounding up a faculty for the new Bussey Institution, filled the chair of horticulture with a Boston gentleman of property, living nearby, where he passed his time with the embellishment of his own grounds. President Eliot, facing so soon a second appointment in this unfrequented field, would, I suspect, have sought Parkman's suggestions about his successor. What could have been more natural than for Parkman to propose his young friend and neighbor? The promptness of Sargent's appointment in May 1872 supports this hypothesis

Although Francis Parkman ceased to profess horticulture after a year, he continued to study and practice it. In part three of the second volume of the *Bulletin of the Bussey Institution*, Parkman published in 1878 an article on "The Hybridization of Lilies" that represented a dozen years of personal experimentation on this subject. He told how he had attempted to combine the two superb Japanese lilies, *L. speciosum* (*lancifolium*) and *L. auratum*, the former as female parent. After five or more years he was rewarded on 7 August 1869 with a bud that "proved a magnificent flower, nine and a half inches in diameter, resembling *L. auratum* in fragrance and form, and the most beautiful varieties of *L. speciosum* in color. In the following year, it measured nearly twelve inches from tip to tip of the petals, and in England it has since reached fourteen inches." Several years later Parkman sent a bulb of this new lily to Max Leichtlin of the botanical garden at Baden-Baden and another to the English grower Anthony Waterer, the proprietor of the Knap Hill Nursery at Woking, Surrey. Both responded with enthusiasm.

Leichtlin wrote to Parkman on 13 November 1875:

In no small degree I am obliged to our mutual friend Mr. Sargent for his kindness to introduce myself to your notice, an introduction which I appreciate the more as it is to a gentleman who really seems to be a more successful hybridizer and grower of Lilies as even celebrated Marshall Wilder.

You had the kindness to send me a splendid bulb of that costly and more remarkable hybrid *L. Parkmanni*. The bulb arrived in excellent condition and I call it welcome, and shall take every particular care to preserve and increase it; it is however so valuable a plant that I fairly cannot accept it and merely say my thanks! I rather regard it as still your property confided to my care to make sure of its preservation and propagation. Of course it will always be at your disposal.

However I feel much obliged for your kind intention to procure to myself the pleasure of seeing it flowering; looking through my garden I find not much worth to reciprocate for but the only one bulb I can dispose of still of *L. Hansoni* and some 7 small bulbs of *L. polyphyllum* from the Himalayas. Through the kindness of Mr. Sargent you will receive the parcel.

Here I beg to enclose a few seed of my own hybridising *L. giganteum* as parent female and *L. Thunbergianum* as male.

This was apparently sent by way of Professor Sargent, for in the Parkman Papers in the Massachusetts Historical Society is preserved this undated letter:

Monday, P.M.

Dear Parkman,

The enclosed came for you today, The bulbs have not yet arrived, but they no doubt will in a day or two, when I will hand them over to Charlie.

Your Lily seems to be having a great success, and you seem in a fair way to out strip even "celebrated Marshall Wilder."

Come and see us when you can.

Sincerely,

C. S. Sargent

Anthony Waterer wrote on 18 October 1875 of the bulb sent to him: "I believe it was the most beautiful flower I ever beheld and that was the opinion of all who saw it. It must be a most desirable plant and if it is not distributed will doubtless prove of considerable commercial value. I note your kind promise to communicate with me before parting with any more. I shall be very glad of the opportunity of purchasing any you have to spare." This letter led to Parkman selling the lily to Waterer for exclusive distribution, apparently for the thousand dollars mentioned by Parkman's earliest biographers. Waterer gave it the name of *Lilium Parkmanni*. Parkman on 15 January 1876 wrote Waterer thus in regard to terms:

My proposal is to send you *all* the bulbs of the hybrid *L. Parkmanni* which are in my possession..

These consist of *three* about as large as I sent you, and two or three smaller ones. The three larger ones (just mentioned) grow attached together in one pot, and each threw up a stem last season as large as a small goose quill.

I do not propose to reserve any bulbs for myself or Mr. Sargent; but to take the risk of success or failure in raising bulbs from the scales of which I spoke in my last. If I succeed in doing so, I shall reserve two of the bulbs thus obtained — one for myself, and the other for Mr. Sargent.

All the rest will be sent to you, as soon as they are strong enough to bear transportation.

The only bulbs which have left my hands are one sent to you and one to Mr. Leichtlin. I have lately received a letter from Mr. L. He promises not to part with the bulb or with any bulbs that may be raised from it; and I believe his word is entirely to be trusted.

An account of the lily appeared in England in the March 1876 issue of *Florist and Pomologist*, illustrated by a colored plate.

After completing a decade as Chairman of the Library Committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Parkman was elected president on 7 November 1874. Although it was the custom only to seek a portrait of a president on his retirement, a committee was appointed for such a purpose one month after Parkman's election on the ground that his "valuable services to horticulture should not be entirely eclipsed by this world-wide reputation as a historian." Accordingly a bust of Parkman by the Irish-born Boston sculptor Martin Milmore was completed and in Horticultural Hall early in February 1876, almost two years before its subject, having declined re-election, made his farewell address as president on 5 January 1878.

Early in the 1880's as the tempo of his historical writing and his lameness increased, Francis Parkman gradually withdrew from horticultural activities beyond the care of his grounds. The beauty of this place above Jamaica Pond continued to attract his many friends. Henry Dwight Sedgwick wrote of the place a decade after Parkman's death:

Sometimes in the richness of the blossoming time the colors were too heavily laid on by the horticultural hand;

The fayre grassy grownd

Mantled with green, and goodly beautifide

With all the ornaments of Floraes pride,

Wherewith her mother Art, as halfe in scorn

Of niggard Nature, like a pompous bride

Did decke her, and too lavishly adorne —

was too red and pink and yellow. The azaleas, rhododendrons, magnolias, syringas, lilacs, and the big scarlet Parkman poppies were too bold for a less scientific eye, and overshadowed the columbine, foxglove, larkspur, violet, even the Japanese iris, whose seeds had been fetched from the Mikado's garden, and all the wee, modest flowers; but people would drive thither many miles to see the splendor of the blossoms.

The garden was of modest dimensions and sloped down sharply to the shore, so that the little walk from the house to the dock on the pond's edge ran past all the vegetable friends, trees, shrubs, and plants. There was a tall, wide-spreading beech, elms sixty feet high, a big chestnut, a tulip, a plane-tree, two white oaks, a sassafras, Scottish maples and scarlet maples, lindens, willows, pines, and hemlocks; and holding themselves a little aloof, as befitted their rarity and breeding, a Kentucky coffee-tree, a ginkgo, the magnolia acuminata, and the Parkman crab, first of its kind in New England, radiant with its bright-colored flowers.

Francis Parkman died on 8 November 1893, a year after the publication of the final part of his great historical work. Soon after his death his property on Jamaica Pond was bought by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enlarge the Olmsted parkway that extends from the Back Bay to the Arnold Arboretum and beyond. A new road, bearing his name, runs through the former location of Parkman's rose garden. On the site of his house was placed an allegorical monument by Daniel Chester French with a bronze bas-relief of Parkman. Alas, the portrait relief has recently been stolen by vandals. At the base of the monument are carved these lines: "Here where for many years he lived and died friends of Francis Parkman have placed this seat in token of their admiration for his character and for his achievements." The chairman of the committee that raised the funds for this memorial was Major Henry Lee Higginson, founder of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Parkman's successful rival for the hand of Ida Agassiz in 1863.

Although Francis Parkman's garden has vanished, the study in which he did much of his writing is still preserved, nearly eighty years after his death, substantially as he left it in 1893. His mother in 1864 bought a pleasant early nineteenth century brick house on the lower slope of Beacon Hill, where he and his children and his sister Eliza lived with her in the winters. On Mrs. Parkman's death in 1871 the house was left to her daughter Eliza, with whom Parkman continued to live during the winter, just as she lived with him at Jamaica Pond during the more clement months of the year. The 50 Chestnut Street house eventually passed to the Misses Corder, nieces of Francis and Eliza Parkman, who made few changes in it, piously keeping his third floor study much as he had left it, save for his historical books and manuscripts, which were given, respective-

ly, to the Harvard College Library and the Massachusetts Historical Society. When Miss Elizabeth Corder died in 1955 at a great age, 50 Chestnut Street was sold, but her heirs generously gave much of the furniture to the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, which had recently come into the ownership of a large Bulfinch house at 87 Mount Vernon Street. During the autumn of 1955 the contents of Parkman's study were moved, lock, stock, and barrel, to the Colonial Society's house, together with doors, mantlepiece, gas fixtures, and other details that permitted the reconstruction of this touching little room on the fourth floor of 87 Mount Vernon Street in a manner that would make Francis Parkman feel at home. Particularly so because in a corridor outside the study stands his wheel-chair, while on the walls hang numerous photographs of his house and garden at Jamaica Pond, and a print of *Lilium Parkmanni*, taken from his desk and framed. As I had the pleasure eighteen years ago of transferring Parkman's Lares and Penates from one part of Beacon Hill to another, I have welcomed the opportunity to remind the Friends of the Arnold Arboretum of the horticultural activities that he carried out on the shores of Jamaica Pond, so close to the Arnold Arboretum, whose first director I firmly believe he chose.

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Notes

Most of the details of Parkman's career as a horticulturist are scattered through his biographies by Charles Haight Farnham (1900), Henry Dwight Sedgwick (1904), Mason Wade (1942), and Howard Doughty (1962). Wilbur R. Jacobs, who edited Parkman's letters (1960) has another biography in project. Edward Wheelwright's memoir is in *Publications of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, I (1892-1894); Parkman was elected to that society, which today preserves his study, at its first meeting on 18 January 1893. Samuel Eliot Morison's *The Parkman Reader* (1955) is a delightful selection from Parkman's work by the twentieth century historian who has best emulated Parkman's style and practice of seeing at first hand the scenes that he describes. Selections from the letters of M. Leichtlin, Anthony Waterer, and Charles S. Sargent are published by permission of the Massachusetts Historical Society which owns Parkman's papers.



Francis Parkman and friend on porch of his Jamaica Pond home.