
FOREWORD

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FOR NEARLY half a century the government and other agencies have been trying to impress upon the rising generation the importance of conservation by quoting facts and figures on damage caused by forest fires, the decline in supply of timber, and the increased costs of forest products. While it is true that ninety-nine per cent of the forest fires which annually devastate the South are man caused; that most of them are due to carelessness; that North Carolina alone loses some three million dollars a year from forest fires and that it is costing this one state two hundred thousand dollars annually to prevent even greater losses from the "red menace"—such statements do not register with the young folks. They must be reached through their emotions and as they grow older "sweet reasonableness" will develop.

Those who would protect the birds, both for aesthetic and for economic reasons, have come to be known as "Bird Lovers" and, thank God, we have a rapidly increasing army of these enthusiastic conservationists. For the protection of our forests we must raise up a generation of Tree Lovers, and this cannot be accomplished by lectures on economics. Millions make little impression on any of us these days. We must emphasize the individual tree and cultivate intelligent and deepening interest in each one, whether tiny seedling or "tall timber." Each tree should become to the boy or girl as much an individual as the pet dog or the horse in the pasture; more a living fellow creature than a piece of valuable property. The great panorama

of life must embrace these "oldest of living creatures" not only, and not even chiefly, as a source of revenue for the landowner, but as friends and companions of our daily life.

In this delightful book on the "Trees of the South," which will amply reward careful study by the student or the casual reader and repay in genuine pleasure those who have already become Tree Lovers, Mrs. Green has taken this sympathetic approach. Besides being correct botanically it is historical and biographical, giving authentic sketches of our friends and acquaintances, the trees, with bits of their family histories, written in so charming a style that the reader is impelled to seek personal acquaintance with these neighbors. The author knows well, from her own experience, that acquaintance will, with growing knowledge, ripen into a rewarding and satisfying friendship.