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Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of ‘natural history’, its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804) were established to support research in these areas. A related development was strong enthusiasm for exotic garden plants, which resulted in plant collecting expeditions to every corner of the globe, sometimes with tragic consequences. This series includes accounts of some of those expeditions, detailed reference works on the flora of different regions, and practical advice for amateur and professional gardeners.

The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland

Although without formal scientific training, Henry John Elwes (1846–1922) devoted his life to natural history. He had studied birds, butterflies and moths, but later turned his attention to collecting and growing plants. Embarking on his most ambitious project in 1903, he recruited the Irish dendrologist Augustine Henry (1857–1930) to collaborate with him on this well-illustrated work. Privately printed in seven volumes between 1906 and 1913, it covers the varieties, distribution, history and cultivation of tree species in the British Isles. The strictly botanical parts were written by Henry, while Elwes drew on his extensive knowledge of native and non-native species to give details of where remarkable examples could be found. Each volume contains photographic plates as well as drawings of leaves and buds to aid identification. The species covered in Volume 6 (1912) include spruce, juniper, laburnum, cherry, mulberry and gum trees.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06937-3 - The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland: Volume 6
Henry John Elwes and Augustine Henry
Frontmatter
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The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland

VOLUME 6

HENRY JOHN ELWES
AUGUSTINE HENRY



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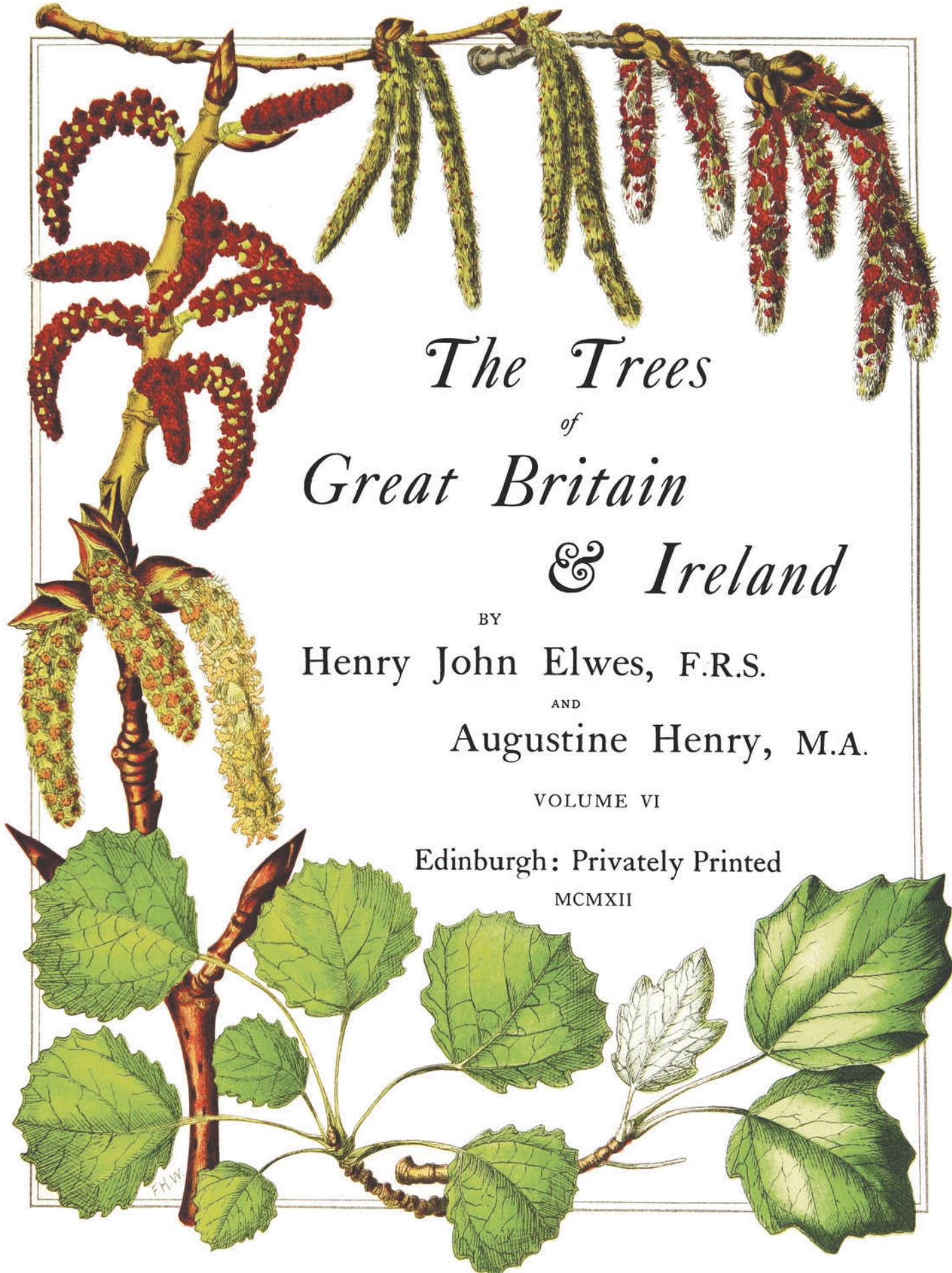
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THE favourable manner in which the Notice to Subscribers issued with the Fifth Volume of this work (*The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*) was received, leads us to hope for their approval of the course we are now about to adopt, after consultation with some of our best supporters.

In consequence of the great additions to our knowledge, and the extreme difficulty of some of the genera described, the last part of the work has increased to over 500 pages, which, if published in one volume, would far exceed in size and cost those hitherto published. We have therefore decided to complete the work in two volumes. Vol. VII. will be issued, together with a general Index to the whole work, before the end of the year. In accordance with what was indicated in our last Notice to Subscribers the cost of these two volumes and the Index will be Five Guineas.

H. J. ELWES.

A. HENRY.