

# A PUBLIC SPIRIT

*George H. Atkinson's Written Legacy*

Transcribed and with a foreword by  
Donald J. Severson



BEE TREE

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A Public Spirit:  
George H. Atkinson's Written Legacy

Selected, transcribed, and introduced by Donald J. Sevetson

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Bee Tree Books

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*Our treasure lies in the beehive of our knowledge. We are perpetually on the way  
thither, being by nature [...] honey gatherers of the mind.*

Friedrich Nietzsche

The “Bee Tree”, an iconic ivy-covered tree that stood on the Pacific University campus for many years, was already old and hollow when pioneer Tabitha Brown arrived in Oregon in 1846. Mrs. Brown started a home for orphans that would grow into Pacific University. According to the Forest Grove *News-Times*, the tree was “said to have housed a swarm of bees who furnished the little old lady with honey which she sold to buy provisions for her orphan children.”

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