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FLORIDA FACTS

BOTH BRIGHT AND BLUE

A GUIDE BOOK

TO

INTENDING SETTLERS, TOURISTS, AND INVESTORS

FROM A NORTHERNER'S STANDPOINT

PLAIN UNVARNISHED TRUTH, WITHOUT "TAFFY"

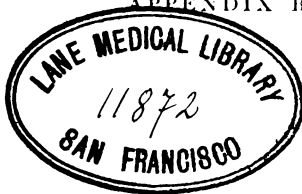
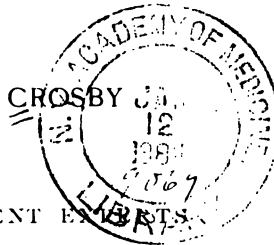
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OLIVER MARVIN CROSBY

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NEW YORK

1887

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INTRODUCTORY.

FEW climates or countries have been so lauded or berated as Florida. For years a succession of beautifully-written, rose-colored, but misleading books and pamphlets on Florida have been sold or given away, the result being that throngs of misled tourists and settlers have entered the State, many of whom, finding themselves so much deceived, have either returned north to spread abroad tales of their gloomy experience; or, if braver, have determined to stay and learn the truth about the State, which, it is safe to affirm, is essentially unlike the representations of the guide-books.

These classes of people required an organ or outlet to voice their sentiments, for all sorts of paper cities and wildcat schemes had been fostered during the era of misrepresentation, and it became the popular thing to denounce Florida as a "land of humbugs, sand and reptiles," by writers paid to write down everything, admitting no good. An extraordinary freeze gave emphasis to these assertions; and for a dreary winter, it seemed that the fates were against the State. With the budding forth of the denuded orange trees hope sprang again, as trees reported by their frightened owners as frozen to the ground bore, the following season, the largest crop on record. In brief, sober second thought has taken the place of visionary and impracticable ideas, and it seems the people are ready to accept statements between the extremes as the real truth, which augurs well for the future stability of Florida's industries.

In the following pages we make no attempt at a compila-

tion of statistics, or even more than to touch on Florida history, which has been covered so often and well by earlier writers. It is from an entirely practical standpoint we shall discuss the advantages and drawbacks of the State, learned after five years' experience in nearly every portion thereof. We cannot hope to suit the effusive Florida land speculator or the patriotic press ; while it is possible many an intending settler may be appalled at the disadvantages he had much better understand ere he packs his goods for the "Land of Flowers."

We look for reward to now puzzled but interested readers, who, after carefully reading the following pages, may yet emigrate to Florida and afterward endorse our words.

OLIVER MARVIN CROSBY.

FLORIDA FACTS.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS.

FLORIDA! How many problems does it offer even to-day! While undoubtedly the longest settled portion of the Union, the fortress and many other buildings of its earliest city hoary as an Old World ruin, until recently it has been but sparsely inhabited by people little given to enterprise. Even now a large part of the population may be said to be engaged in a series of partly successful experiments, with products new to them, while accustoming themselves to a climate and mode of life different from those they have been used to.

On the new-comer, with his visions of tropical luxuriance of vegetation, the dreary, flat pine woods, with now and then a squalid negro cabin and its poverty-stricken occupants, will be apt to produce impressions of keen disgust. He looks with dismay upon the sandy soil and its scant covering of wire-grass, wondering wherein lies its strength to nourish the majestic pines, and he begins to think himself "one of the fools," and blame himself for being so easily duped.

The approach to Jacksonville is not reassuring, and he may enter this metropolis with no suspicion of his being in an orange or semi-tropical country. Quite possibly a cold wave has accompanied him down, and he finds his overcoat and a stove as necessary to his comfort as at his northern home, ignorant of the fact that the thermometer is perhaps at that moment at least forty degrees lower in the town he left behind, though it might have been in the forties two days before.

As he registers, he repeats the stereotyped phrase to the smiling hotel clerk, "Guess I will have to go back North to get warm," and the clerk is too well instructed to reply, "At least a score of new-comers have told me that within twelve hours."

A walk about town, after the best meal he has had since he left home, puts him in better humor, and for the first time he sees the barren-looking sand produces something beside pines. Though it may be December, tea-roses are in bloom in every yard in such abundance as even a Northern hot-house cannot produce. Camellias, japonicas, poinsettias, and other rare, tender plants are growing and blooming without check, and oh, joy! here are oranges actually growing on trees shading the streets; what harm to pull and eat? No sooner thought than done, and with an expletive more forcible than elegant he throws away the deceitful fruit, as he finds himself deceived again with the bitterest of flavors in his mouth, having sucked a "bitter-sweet," or wild orange, used only for shade and ornament.

Bay Street, with its great warehouses and crowded sidewalks, makes him think of home, while at the adjacent docks steamers are discharging oranges from up the river, or loading with merchandise in exchange. At the end of an hour he returns to the hotel more confused than ever, and doubtless takes his pen in hand to let the stay-at-homes have the benefit of "what he knows" about Florida. Whether he writes glowingly or gloomily, depends on his temperament or state of mind; it is accepted as gospel truth, and mischief follows, whether the readers decide to pack up and start for the "Land of Flowers," or are permanently set against it. In the former case, they are sure to be disgusted; in the latter, they are so already.



RIVER FRONT AND SHIPPING, JACKSONVILLE.

CLASSES OF NEW SETTLERS.

HORDES of immigrants, after landing at Castle Garden, are loaded into trains like cattle in charge of some immigrant agent, and whirled away for the far West, where they are dumped like sheep upon some bleak, shelterless prairie, to shift for themselves as best they can; and how little the world hears of their complaints! Florida has no attraction for the penniless immigrant, nor to the adventurers that made up so great a portion of California's early population. As a rule, settlers in Florida come from the class of well-bred Northern persons who have been unfortunate in the scramble for wealth and position, or have bodily ailments which a balmy climate is expected to cure.

Another class, that can hardly be called settlers, represents those who own orange-grove villas or cottages, occupying them only during the winter, as many do their cottages for the summer at Northern seashore resorts. Persons of the first-mentioned class are often visionary, fluent with the pen, and unpractical, while those who reside only a portion of the year in Florida are hardly to be considered among the effective population, and to a smaller third class of poor "make-a-living toilers" belongs much of the credit of Florida's practical advancement.

These are they who have brought Northern energy and common sense together, and what they have achieved is worth all that has been written by those who have theories yet untried, but who are anxious to get them into print.

The Northern settler at first is invariably hampered by his conceit. He "will show the slow-going natives a thing or two," and it is usually only after he has sunk most of his available capital that he is ready to admit that these natives can teach him. Usually a compromise in methods is the happy result.

It is a trifle humiliating to the average Yankee settler, to find that the largest, most productive orange groves are often owned and cultivated by native Floridians or Southerners, whom in his superior wisdom, he had considered as lacking in successful methods.

What successful methods are, in Florida horticulture, we cannot attempt to describe, except in a general way; the details must be learned from observation and experience, which are always slow and expensive.

It is natural to speak of "the orange" in Florida descriptions, as at present it is one of our staple products; yet the exports of lumber, Sea Island cotton, and the crops of corn consumed at home exceed the orange in value; while lemons, pears, peaches, strawberries, and fresh winter vegetables are already rivaling if not excelling the golden fruit in profit.

The peninsular portion of the State is developing most rapidly in this fascinating business, the climate being essentially different from that of the northern and western portions, which, though undoubtedly richer as to soil, are liable to such degrees of frost as render winter gardening uncertain. Indeed, the same may be said, as to frost, as low down as the twenty-ninth or twenty-eighth degree. One year in four, possibly, untimely frosts may nip budding hopes and blossoms. It will be seen then that the territory free from killing frosts, or, in other words, that which is capable of producing a sure crop of tropical fruit and winter vegetables for the Northern markets, is very limited, and must in time be valuable, though now it is comparatively unsettled, as railroads have only recently penetrated this region.

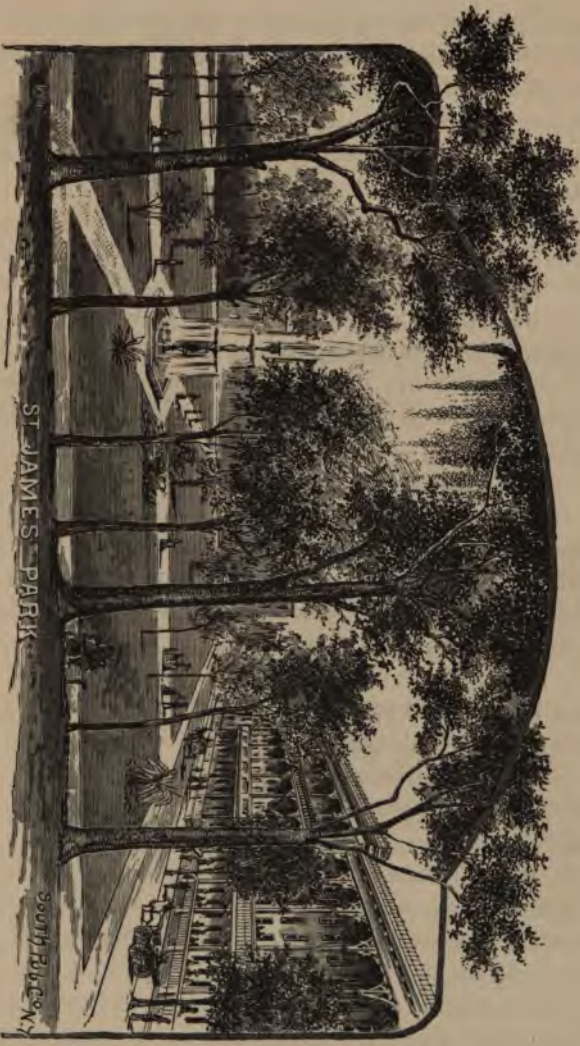
Three years out of four, and perhaps oftener, crops of oranges may be relied upon as far north as the thirtieth degree, while strawberries and early vegetables will ripen but little later. Elevated lands, too, as far north as thirty degrees may be safer from frost than flat or low lands at twenty-eight

degrees. Frost seeks depressions in Florida, as it does in New York State, while hillside gardens often escape our April frost, which blights the fruit buds in the valley.

Let the reader disabuse his mind of the idea of A FROST LINE in Florida, or of the wish to locate below it. Slight frosts visit occasionally EVERY portion of the State. Even Cuba had a white frost at the time of the great Florida freeze of January, 1886.

THE SOILS OF FLORIDA

are described by names that convey no meaning to the Northern reader, so the terms must needs be explained. Every pamphlet relating to Florida has much to say of HAMMOCK OR HUMMOCK soils, yet seldom gives the uninitiated a correct idea of what they are like, and the prevailing opinion among readers, is, that hammock land is another name for swamp, while the fact is, that large tracts of hammock land lie very elevated. Elevation has nothing to do with the term. Hammock lands are the richest known, and when once pointed out, are easily distinguished by the new-comer without further explanation. When left wild, they are always a tangle of tropical growths, often nearly impenetrable. From them grow the stately magnolia and live oak trees, palms or cabbage palmettos, and a wealth of flowering bushes and vines, including the fragrant yellow jessamine. The soil is dark and full of vegetable mold or plant food, and when once cleared, is the most valuable for gardening, requiring no fertilizer for years, while producing crops that are amazing. There are, however, serious drawbacks to occupying most hammock lands for a home. They are often underlaid with rotten limestone that poisons the water with malaria, while the rich, newly-cleared and plowed soil will contribute to this result; the exceptions being certain tracts adjacent to salt water, which seems to counteract malaria, or such as are free from limestone formation.



ST. JAMES HOTEL AND CITY PARK, JACKSONVILLE.

Hammock lands constitute but a very small portion of the State, and the emigrant will do well to ponder whether it is better to give for hammock four or five fold the price asked for adjacent pine lands with these drawbacks, or to put the extra amount of money demanded for the former, together with the great extra cost of clearing, into fertilizers on the pine lands, with the probability that in the long run he may have a more desirable property and better health. There is no more confusing or important question for the new-comer to decide than this; and, whichever way he chooses, weighty arguments will be used to unsettle him by advocates of either quality of soil, who are always at variance. We admit that good arguments may be offered on either side, neither monopolizing all advantages.

There are various grades of hammock lands—high, as shown, and the more common; low, which latter lie along the water-courses, though not necessarily subject to overflow. Shell hammock is another quality esteemed very highly, composed largely of pulverized shell rich in lime. Mixed lands of pine, hickory and oak come next in grade of richness. The trees are usually heavily draped in Spanish or gray Florida moss, and the locality is usually unhealthy.

The long-leaved YELLOW PINE LANDS occupy a much larger area, and are divided into many well-defined classes.

Strictly FIRST-CLASS PINE land, according to the government grade, is very scarce. It is seldom even rolling, but consists of heavy pine timber, free from undergrowth, but clothed with a dense body of deer grass, with a dark chocolate soil that is quite rich, and will often produce large crops without fertilizers. Much larger bodies of land come under the head of SECOND-CLASS PINE, usually more rolling, heavily timbered with lighter soil and grass, with possibly black jack, a species of scrub oak, where fires have been allowed to run and deposit their potash in the shape of ashes, which black jack thrives

upon. This, like all the grades of land previously enumerated, is largely used for orange growing, and while all require fertilizing according to their fertility, all will produce fine, vigorous orange groves.

THIRD-CLASS PINE covers a much larger area, known as flat woods. Here, too, the timber is heavy, and the soil often dark, perhaps black, but soggy and sour, requiring drainage, which accomplished, marvelous results often follow in growing, for instance, strawberries or sugar-cane. Hard-pan clay usually lies too near the surface to make good orange lands, even when well drained. Often slight elevations rise out of the flat woods, and herein are often to be found the log cabins of the "Cracker," or native farmer, surrounded by a few thrifty orange trees and his cattle pens. The "Cracker" has "no use" for rolling pine, which he scornfully calls "sand hills," preferring the unhealthful flat woods, where his cattle find better pasturage, even if his wife and children do grow yellow from malaria. Next down the grade come cypress ponds and swamps—great stretches of desolate country, home of the alligator and moccasin snake, of no use to man but for the timber.

SAND SCRUB, though usually elevated, is even more worthless and of no more strength of soil than sand dunes along the coast. THE EVERGLADES are not, as many suppose, a noisome swamp, but a vast tract of level country, which Lake Okeecho-bee overflows during the rainy season, and the country around being so flat, is covered from one to four feet in depth with perfectly clear water; not by any means an inviting place of residence, but capable of drainage, and in a fair way to be turned into sugar farms by the enterprise of Philadelphia capital.

The area of arable lands upon which farming or horticulture can be successfully carried on is but a fraction of the fifty-eight thousand square miles within the boundaries of the State; and if from this we deduct that great proportion of



WILD PINE LAND.

Florida lying above the twenty-ninth degree, as too far north for successful orange and tropical fruit culture, and from this subtract the greater proportion too wet or too poor, we have less than four million acres left of available orange lands, which, with a portion of Southern California, is all the territory capable of supplying our vast country with tropical fruits or fresh mid-winter vegetables.

This small tract, it is evident, will be taxed to its uttermost to supply Northern markets as the country fills up, and the land must increase in value accordingly.

NORTH vs. SOUTH—FLORIDA FARMING.

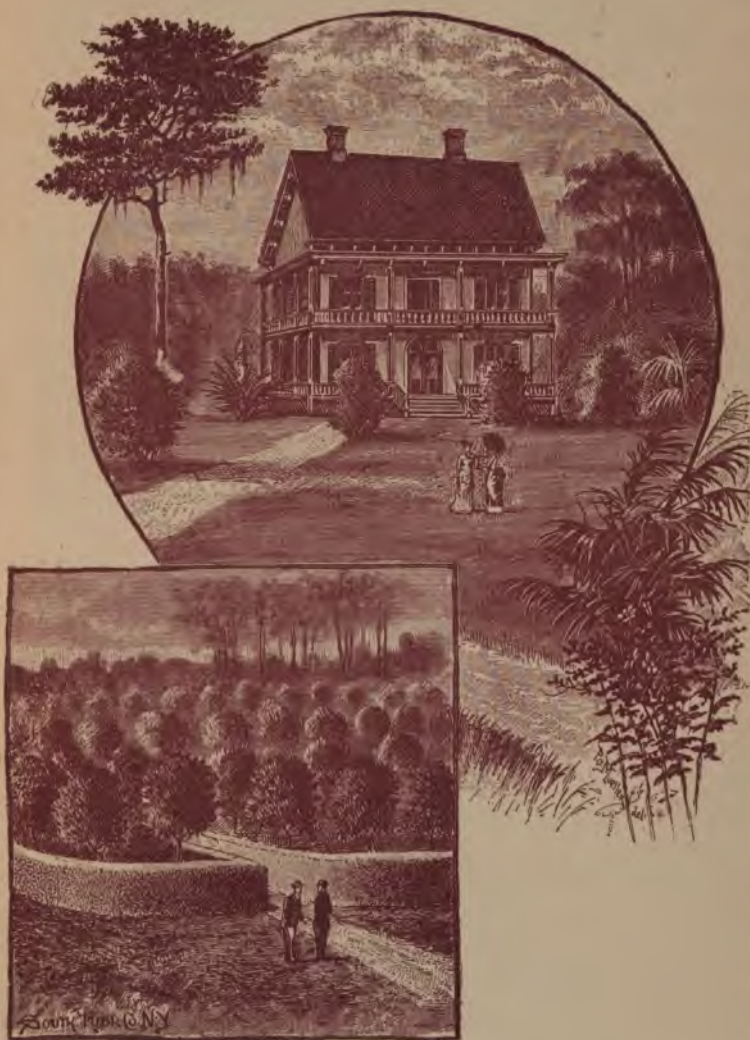
WHEN one thinks of the immense area where apples, pears, grapes, wheat, oats, etc., grow to perfection, and considers what a small region is left to produce oranges, lemons, sugar, pineapples, etc., the question arises, What will be the relative values of each ten or twenty years hence?

Orange groves in full bearing have been sold at from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per acre, and yet have yielded the purchaser a fair dividend upon his investment, while they cost the grower but a small portion of the sum realized. Our experience in Florida does not allow us to recommend any thrifty Northern farmer to emigrate to this State for the purpose of carrying on any branch of farming he has been accustomed to at home. True, there is a belt of clay soil in North Florida where the cereals and a few northern fruits do *tolerably* well; but what advantage is there, let us ask, in leaving, for instance, a first-class dairy country to engage in the dairying business where good grazing grasses are not indigenous, and where corn or oats at best do not yield one-half what they do at the North? Rather do either one thing or the other, and do it well, and where Nature intended. Either go far enough south in Florida to

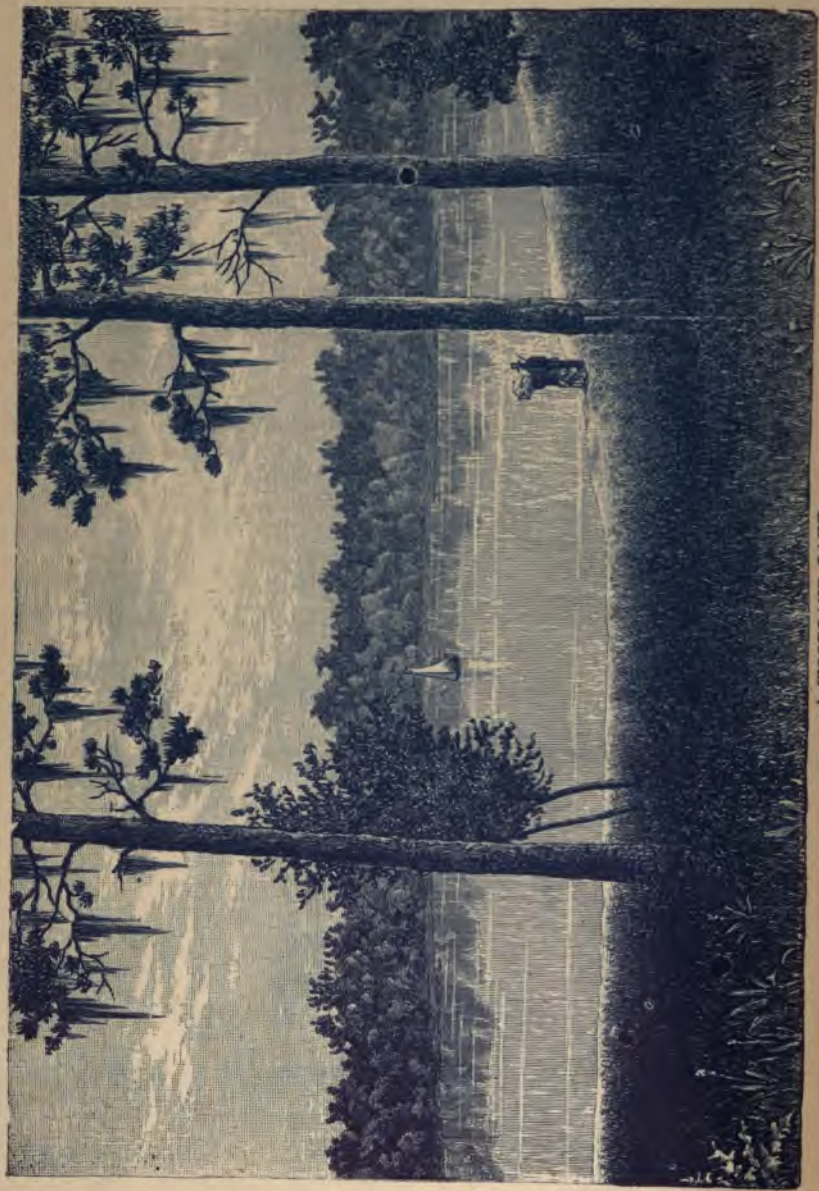
insure success with winter fruits and vegetables; or, if wheat or hay are to be the crops, stay North where these grow best. This does not mean that the Florida settler must do without milk, butter or grain, for many a one has his dainty Alderney kept on green fodder, whose udder is distended twice a day with as good a flow as would be the case in a New England farm-yard. But the native "Cracker" cow, after generations of neglect, is a poor dependence for milk, especially if her calf must be raised. However, in Manatee County there are native Floridians owning from 10,000 to 50,000 head of cattle which did not cost, all told, \$1 per head, who have supplied the Cuban market with beef, such as it is, for many years. These cattle are never housed and fed, but roam the country, fattening in summer and growing lean in winter.

The genuine Florida farmer, in place of apples, grows oranges; in place of Bartlett pears, grows Le Conte; in place of Northern peaches, grows Pean To, fully as good; in place of cherries, grows mulberries; in place of raspberries and currants, grows guavas; in place of Irish potatoes, grows sweet potatoes; in place of hay, grows millo maize, alfalfa, etc.; in place of yellow corn, grows Southern white corn; in place of wheat or rye, grows cotton. There are also Japan plums, persimmons, olives, strawberries, in February; whortleberries (wild) in May; blackberries (wild) in April, etc., etc.

With the low rates of transportation now assured by our competing railroads, grain, flour, and provisions are laid down at Jacksonville nearly or quite as cheaply as at New York; and Florida farmers, as a rule, prefer to buy those necessities which Nature never intended them to grow, while they send in exchange their products of citrus fruits or fresh vegetables in winter, often getting hot-house prices, and completely breaking down the Northern greenhouse fruit-forcing business.



A WINTER RETREAT.



A WOODLAND LAKE.

FLORIDA'S PROGRESS SINCE 1880.

AT the outset mention was made that Florida farmers are engaged in partly successful experiments. This being true, it is interesting to compare figures, and to note the advancement that has been made in the State, which is remarkable, even in this country of grand strides. A once very complete and readable Florida book (Barbour's) is now interesting reading, just to note the rapidity of the growth of towns and cities—infants in 1882; now in full strength of robust life. Eustis, now a "city" of two thousand, with municipal government, bank, and at least five churches, was then Pendryville, consisting of a typical country hotel, and a few scattered houses, without a railroad. Five railroads now center at Tavares, then an unbroken wilderness but five miles away, and the traveler of to-day can scarce believe that all he sees has been accomplished within five years. Much the same progress may be recorded of Orlando, Leesburg, Ocala, Sanford, Orange City, De Land, Tampa, Brooksville, and many other localities; while such vigorous towns as Kissimmee, Bartow, Lakeland, and Belleview, either did not exist, or were deemed unworthy of notice. The State has DOUBLED its tax list since 1880. The population has increased from about three hundred thousand in 1880, to a round half million to-day. Jacksonville has grown in population from about 10,500, including suburbs, in 1880, to 25,000 at present.

The total number of miles of railroad in the State built up to 1880 was only 537 miles. Now, built and in operation, there are over 2,500 miles, while the air is thick with rumors of new enterprises.

In this connection, compare the new map that accompanies this book, with its railroads and towns, with any map or railroad folder of five years ago, and one will get a feeble idea of



WILD HAMMOCK LAND.

what has been going on, and will have to admit, that with all its drawbacks, there must be something in Florida.

NOTE.—Statistics recently published from assessors' books show Florida Grand List has grown from \$29,000,000 in 1879, to \$76,000,000 in 1887—a much greater ratio than any other Southern State.

FERTILIZERS FOR FLORIDA.

IT is generally held to be one of the drawbacks to farming in the State, that most of the soil needs to be fertilized to produce paying crops. But everywhere, in the Middle and Western States, farmers accept this as a matter of course. Onion growers along Long Island Sound buy stable manure by the schooner, load and float it from New York City, while market gardeners all through Long Island are supplied with manure from the great cities by steam railroad. Concentrated or commercial fertilizers, too, are used in quantity by nearly every good farmer in the North, in addition to the many tons of stable manure obtained on his farm. Only in the deep, rich prairie soils are crops raised without this stimulant; and even here, to maintain a profitable standard, the wheat grower must inevitably feed his land after successive crops, no matter how rich it was in the beginning.

Why, then, single out Florida in particular for disparagement in this respect? Its hammock lands are as rich and productive as the richest prairie, while most of the pine lands with one-half the amount of fertilizer that Northern gardeners plow under will bring forth even better results.

Stable manure, however, is not to be thought of as a fertilizer in Florida. Cattle run at large, or, if cow-penned, their droppings are of little value, since no grain is fed them, as at the North. In fact, we believe the right fertilizer is yet to be discovered for Florida. Bone phosphates, while they act

in the main satisfactorily, are expensive, and if used continuously, will surely run out the soil and impoverish the owner, being too much of the nature of a stimulant. Pine lands need humus, being deficient in vegetable mold. To supply this need, Northern farmers plow under clover and rye. In Florida the same result is obtained by sowing cow pease, which make a rank growth on poor lands, and when turned under, supply the lacking quality needed to make such lands productive. If, when planting soil so treated, two or three hundred pounds of phosphate are added, the result is highly satisfactory.

It has lately been discovered that Florida abounds in phosphate rock, Nature's own provision, and in the near future works will doubtless be erected to supply the immense demand, and keep at home the enormous amount of money that now goes to enrich outside corporations. Lime rock, too, of the best quality has been found, and works have been established at Ocala, while lime is also manufactured from shells near Jacksonville.

Large tracts of hammock land are underlaid with valuable beds of marl. The eastern shore of Lake Griffin, in Sumter County, for miles is of this character; while many square miles back of Daytona, Volusia County, are the same, the fertilizer being thrown out of ditches three feet deep. Orange groves and gardens planted on such a soil will never need other fertilizer, while it can be carted at small expense to enrich surrounding pine lands.

Perhaps the most valuable fertilizer of all we have not mentioned—muck. This valuable body fertilizer is found in convenient beds scattered over the State. Often in the midst of large tracts of high pine lands will depressions be found, covered with shallow water in the summer, but dry in winter, where several feet deep of pure vegetable mold is found, which, when spread over the hungry pine lands, will cause



A CYPRESS SWAMP.

them to blossom as the rose. On the borders of almost all lakes are such beds, known by a peculiar grass that grows only in these deposits, awaiting use. The mysterious formations known as shell mounds are usually solid banks of natural fertilizer. Many horticulturists form a compost heap according to a formula of their own, consisting of muck, lime, decayed weeds and rubbish, upon which are poured all slops from the house and litter from the stable, making a valuable pile, saving the money which others spend in commercial fertilizers. The poultry-house droppings should also be carefully saved, and are doubtless worth as much per barrel as phosphate.

VIRGIN PINE LANDS, AND HOW TO PREPARE FOR PLANTING.

MOST virgin soil in Florida is at first sour, and, if possible, should remain unharrowed for months without planting, as when planted with vegetable or other crops, such a sickly growth is maintained that the ignorant new-comer usually jumps at the conclusion that pine lands are worthless; this in spite of the object lessons taught by the more experienced settlers around him, who grow good crops in the same soil.

A common error is that of buying too much land. Ten to twenty acres is all that is ever needed in most cases, and a larger tract may become a burden and make the possessor "land poor."

Clearing can usually be accomplished at \$10 to \$20 per acre, the pines being scattered, and, generally, free of undergrowth; but where black jack or palmetto is numerous, the cost is greatly increased. Stumps may be burned out more easily later, after the hearts become resinous light wood.

When an orange grove is the object, the usual method is to stake out in regular squares, thirty feet each way, ~~seven rows~~

by seven, or forty-nine trees to the acre, which is not too thick. For trees, if located above the twenty-ninth degree, good stout, sweet seedlings may be secured, which are plentiful and cheap. These can be budded at leisure from bearing trees whose fruit can be tested. The young growth of buds is very tender the first year, and easily killed by frost. Should this latter happen, there remains still the sweet stock that will produce as good fruit as most that goes to market; but for the higher prices, budded fruit must be secured.

A common error is to set the trees too deep. The roots of a bearing orange tree lie close to the surface—indeed almost exposed to sight—and are impatient of being buried deeply. No standing water must ever come in contact with the roots. Perfect drainage is essential. Much pine and hammock land is underlaid with a hard-pan clay, within two to four feet beneath the surface. On soils of this character many a grove has been planted that will never produce a crop of fruit. Trees grow thrifty until the tap root reaches and cannot penetrate the hard pan, when “die back” sets in. The trees will never be larger, and the groves are offered for sale to unsuspecting Yankees.

Land cleared and plowed in October or November may be set with trees in February. As soon as new growth starts, rake in your prepared compost around each tree for a start, and if you wish to make a crop at the same time, plant in prepared hills between the trees tomatoes, cucumbers, or watermelons. The ground will be free of these crops by July, and should then be sown to cow pease, which latter may be plowed under for fertilizer in August or September.

There are few more unsatisfactory enterprises than starting an orange grove. At the end of the first year your trees have probably made but feeble growth; the crops, owing to sourness of soil and ignorant cultivation, are not satisfactory; the golden harvest looks a long way off, and discouragement is apt to fol-

low. Sentiment fades away, reality begins—a critical time, when many a soul gives up the battle and goes North, selling out for a song to a pluckier new-comer, who takes up the work so hopelessly left, and brings it to success.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

THERE is no disguising the fact that men as a rule enjoy Florida life far more than women do. The reasons for this are obvious. Many farmers, for instance, and others whose employment at the North called them out in all weathers, enjoy the luxury of outdoor life in Florida without attendant dangers of frosted ears, chilblains, rheumatism, asthma or pneumonia, so prevalent at the North in winter. A climate where all the winter may be passed in planting and cultivating under almost cloudless skies is in itself fascinating. Women, on the contrary, seem to enjoy cold weather best, while it is probable their first house in Florida will not compare in comfort or luxury with the one left, and so dear to them at the North. In addition, the facilities for social pleasures, fashionable calling, sociables, parties, or religious meetings, do not compare, of course, with those of Northern towns, and the separation from intimate friends and relatives is apt to make the female portion of the household homesick. While the husband is enjoying to the full his health-giving occupations, unharassed by the rent collector, coal dealer's bills, or other peculiarly Northern financial problems, the wife, it may be, is brooding over the sundered ties, and contrasting her Florida cottage with her Northern house and richly-furnished rooms. Had she a taste for outdoor life, flowers, poultry, bee-keeping, or silk culture, her mind would be healthfully employed, and she would gradually come to like Florida.

Nowhere, certainly not in the peninsular portion of the

State, need the intending settler dread POLITICAL OSTRACISM. Settlers are eagerly welcomed, regardless of how they vote ; while, if strongly radical in their views, their ideas will become slightly changed after contact with the negroes and their former owners. It will surprise the Northern Yankee to find how far Florida is ahead of New York or New England on the temperance questions, and in how many towns the Local Option law is enforced and liquor voted out, and kept out. Outside the old slave-owning settlements, too, negroes are scarce, they preferring as a rule to work for their old masters rather than to be driven by the impetuous Northerner, who they suspect wishes to get more work out of them than is agreeable to their indolent nature.

While the African is as necessary in clearing away forests and in hard manual labor as the Irishman is at the North, now that he is free he has no idea of working more than is barely necessary to keep him in pork and grits. His "rations" cost at most but a dollar a week, and he sees no reason in working six days out of seven, when three or four provide for his own wants and those of his family. There are few colored men that will agree to work faithfully by the month, or if they do so agree, they often excuse themselves when most needed with an "I reckon I won't work to-day, boss," that is aggravating to the new settler anxious to get his grove planted at the right time, and who is used to having hands whom, after hiring, he can command. Contractors needing one hundred men usually employ one-third more to keep the ranks full, and then are often left with but few, especially after pay-day, or until the men begin to get hungry again. Few darkies are providential enough to lay up enough to last them from week to week, and as their sense of honor is low, they cannot be "trusted" at the stores. Employers are usually "dunned" every day for money, for rations or "'baccy." Withal they are so thoroughly good-natured, with a don't-care-for-to-mor-



AN ORANGE NURSERY AND SETTLER'S HOME.

row air, that the driving employer soon finds it necessary to be more easy with them, realizing that crowding will cause them to leave him unceremoniously.

One of this class of employers from the North lately voiced his grievances in print under the suggestive newspaper heading, "The African as a Bulldozer." With all the progress claimed for the colored man, it will be ages before the negro as a rule is a thrifty, honest laborer, and a town where negroes are in the majority has an "incubus" indeed.

It is probable the new settler will be made to feel his importance in a new community as never at the North. If of ordinary ability, public offices of all kinds will be thrust upon him, with their attendant responsibilities, and the average settler will become more of a man than he ever could in a populous Northern district.

There is something fascinating in moving into a wilderness and seeing it rapidly develop into a full-fledged town, as so many are doing; but the madness of speculation, with the insatiate greed of those so addicted, is the occasion of many petty quarrels and jealousies that may be reckoned among the drawbacks of this and all new countries. While prospecting for a home, too, one will be unsettled and bewildered again and again by opposing statements. A place he has heard extolled for its healthfulness he will again hear described as a "regular malaria breeder," while the informant's locality will be called in turn by some other party "a nest of mosquitoes, fleas and bugs." It would seem that men truthful in ordinary affairs bring themselves to believe without reserve the statements made in their own interests, and against those of their competitors. The wise prospector will therefore hold his own counsel, and draw his own inferences if he values his peace of mind, and afterward keep out of any cliques or sides, maintaining an unswerving purpose to do right.

“OUR” CLIMATE.

FLORIDA'S defamers, who admit nothing else good concerning the State, WILL except the climate, which they declare glorious, provided they spend more than a week in it. “How do you like ‘OUR’ climate?” is the universal question asked each new-comer, much as one would say “our” house, “our” gun, or “our” horse, as though the speaker were in some way part proprietor in such a glorious affair, and wanted some of the credit. Sure of an enthusiastic reply in the climate's favor, he pushes the subject forward on every occasion, gloats over the newspaper telegraphic reports of Northern blizzards, or snow blockades, and is even charged with SELLING THE CLIMATE at so much per acre over worthless land, while in the Everglade region, real estate is said to be sold by THE GALLON.

Florida is often called the “Italy of America,” yet it has no range of snow-crowned Alps to chill the air on otherwise balmy days. The mildness of our Florida winters is not due to the fact that we are so far south. In portions of Texas of the same latitude as Jacksonville, the thermometer sinks sometimes nearly to zero; while Savannah, but one hundred miles north of Jacksonville, occasionally has snow or sleet, and many chilly storms that we escape. Of course, as we approach the equator winter days are longer and the sun warmer. But the reason why our winters are so mild is our peculiar position. With the lukewarm waters of the Gulf of Mexico on the west, and the tepid Atlantic and Gulf Stream on the east, the temperature of whose waters scarcely varies summer or winter, it will be seen how powerful their influence is, especially as the peninsula is long and narrow, and to go out of it means to enter another climate. In this connection it will be profitable to study the following tables, which need no further comment.

The first shows the surprising fact that the variations of temperature are less in Florida than in any other State in the Union, as per Signal Service Report.

STATE OR TERRITORY.	DEGREES.		
	Maximum.	Minimum.	Difference.
Florida	105	10	95
Louisiana	105	0	105
Mississippi	105	— 05	110
Alabama	105	— 10	115
West Virginia	100	— 20	120
Georgia	105	— 20	125
Ohio	105	— 25	130
Kansas	110	— 20	130
Connecticut	105	— 30	135
Oregon	110	— 25	135
Illinois	105	— 35	140
Nebraska	110	— 30	140
New York	105	— 35	140
Idaho	115	— 30	145
Colorado	110	— 45	155
Dakota	110	— 45	155
California	115	— 45	160
Montana	115	— 50	165

RAINY DAYS (INCLUDING SNOW) OF THREE LOCALITIES.

LOCALITY.	Years.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	Five months.
Jacksonville	5	8.6	7.4	7.	8.6	5.8	37.
Mentone	8	10.1	7.25	5.1	5.66	9.55	37.48
St. Paul	1	4.	13.	8.	6.	11.	42.4

The next shows a comparison with other winter health resorts as to humidity.

The air of Florida being often declared to be excessively damp, the following relative table will, in this connection, be interesting:

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY.

LOCALITIES.	Years.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Mean for five months.	Mean for five months.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Mentone and Cannes	3	71.8	74.2	72.0	70.7	73.3	72.4	
Nassau, N. P.	1	76.1	72.0	77.0	72.5	65.4	73.2	
Atlantic City, N. J.	5	76.9	79.1	80.6	70.3	76.8	78.1	
Breckenridge, Minn.	5	76.9	83.2	76.8	81.8	79.5	79.6	
Duluth, Minn.	5	74.0	72.1	72.7	73.3	71.0	72.6	74.5
St. Paul, Minn.	5	70.3	73.5	75.2	70.7	67.1	71.3	
Punta Rassa, Fla.	5	72.7	73.2	74.2	73.7	69.9	72.7	72.7
Key West, Fla.	5	77.1	78.7	78.9	77.2	72.2	76.8	
Jacksonville, Fla.	5	71.9	69.3	70.2	68.5	63.9	68.8	
Augusta, Ga.	5	71.8	72.6	73.0	64.7	62.8	68.9	
Bismarck, Dak.	1	76.6	76.4	77.4	81.6	70.6	76.5	
Boston, Mass.	1	68.0	61.8	66.6	68.2	63.7	65.6	

RAINFALL OF WINTER RESORTS IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.

LOCALITIES.	No. of years.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Five months.
Nice	28	5.11	4.12	3.06	1.68	2.89	16.86
Mentone	9	5.34	3.15	1.70	2.18	4.13	16.50
Nervi	7	6.00	4.88	4.78	2.33	4.49	23.40
Genoa	29	7.61	4.86	4.39	4.27	3.59	24.72
Atlantic City, N. J.	5	4.61	3.60	2.76	2.10	3.86	16.93
Augusta, Ga.	5	4.56	3.09	3.70	3.64	5.65	20.64
Jacksonville, Fla.	5	3.02	3.38	2.34	5.14	2.84	16.62
Key West, Fla.	5	2.43	1.33	2.18	2.22	0.94	9.10
Punta Rassa, Fla.	5	2.38	0.99	1.69	2.67	1.04	8.77

Minnesota, supposed to be the dryest atmosphere, is here compared with Florida :

YEARS.	MINNESOTA.			FLORIDA.		
	Breckenridge.	Duluth.	St. Paul.	Jacksonville.	Punta Rassa.	Key West.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1875.....	75.7	67.2	69.0	71.9	76.0	71.5
1876.....	67.7	68.2	69.1	69.3	73.9	76.1
1877.....	72.2	71.9	67.6	70.2	70.5	74.1
1878.....	76.2	71.5	67.7	68.5	72.4	74.5
1879.....	74.1	72.8	65.3	63.9	72.3	74.2
Mean for five years.....	73.2	70.3	67.7	68.8	73.0	74.1
Mean for five years for States.....		70.4			72.0	

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA.

YEARS.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	Mean for five months.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1875-76.....	78.9	71.1	67.8	70.4	60.2	69.7
1876-77.....	68.2	64.5	73.6	69.0	63.5	67.9
1877-78.....	71.8	70.0	67.8	68.5	66.4	68.7
1878-79.....	70.0	66.3	65.0	65.0	66.0	66.5
1879-80.....	70.5	74.6	77.1	69.4	63.7	71.1
Mean for 5 years.	71.97	69.3	70.3	68.4	63.9	68.8

THERMOMETER—MEAN RECORD OF TWENTY YEARS AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

	Degrees.		Degrees.
January.....	55	July.....	82
February.....	58	August.....	82
March.....	64	September.....	78
April.....	70	October.....	70
May.....	76	November.....	62
June.....	80	December.....	52

HOW ABOUT FLORIDA SUMMERS?

THE reader who may have read, pondered, and **believed** all we have thus far written regarding Florida, may be **incredulous** as to what we have to say regarding our summer **temperature** and health. These, however, are facts easily **substantiated** by statistics.

Florida summers are supposed by winter residents or prospective settlers to be our greatest drawback, and it is **pleasant** to note their surprise as upon experience they declare "it is not so hot as in New York." This is against all **reason**, say the first mentioned. If winter days are forty degrees **warmer** than at New York, what is to prevent the same being **true** of July days, and who can stand such a furnace as that would be?

Think twice when an invalid asks your advice **whether to go** for health to Florida or the West; and if the disease is **already** far advanced, do not encourage any one to leave home **comforts**



LARGEST ORANGE TREE IN FLORIDA.



AS SEEN BY TRAVELERS.



JAS. A. HARRIS' ORANGE GROVE.

and friends for the poor exchange of a Southern hotel, among strangers, where homesickness and discomfort may suddenly end life.

We give below the death-rate of many cities, including Jacksonville, Florida, the mortality at which city is doubtless higher than it otherwise would be on account of so many consumptives and other invalids reaching Florida only to die :

<i>Cities.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000.</i>	<i>Cities.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000.</i>
New York, N. Y.	24.93	Wilmington, Del.	21.02
Brooklyn, N. Y.	20.15	District of Columbia. . .	26.58
Buffalo, N. Y.	14.19	Richmond, Va.	18.40
Rochester, N. Y.	16.24	Norfolk, Va.	21.91
Yonkers, N. Y.	14.16	Milwaukee, Wis.	14.35
Plattsburgh, N. Y.	25.00	Cincinnati, O.	17.23
Newburgh, N. Y.	17.30	Cleveland, O.	16.72
Boston, Mass.	21.53	Baltimore, Md.	21.53
Worcester, Mass.	19.25	Evansville, Ind.	19.52
Cambridge, Mass.	19.67	Chicago, Ill.	16.50
Lynn, Mass.	18.63	St. Louis, Mo.	12.00
Newburyport, Mass.	17.11	Salt Lake City.	14.00
Concord, N. H.	13.20	San Francisco, Cal.	15.80
Burlington, Vt.	10.68	New Orleans, La.	50.17
Hudson County, N. J. . .	20.08	Mobile, Ala.	23.05
New Haven, Conn.	17.99	Savannah, Ga.	30.25
Hartford, Conn.	16.67	Charleston, S. C.	29.16
Providence, R. I.	19.89	Nashville, Tenn.	23.11
Philadelphia, Pa.	17.96	Jacksonville, Fla.	12.50
Pittsburgh, Pa.	21.16		

We also append a table showing mortality from consumption in all the States, including Florida, from the United States Census Reports :

MORTALITY FROM CONSUMPTION PER 1,000 DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

Maine	258	California	138
New Hampshire	222	Virginia	138
Vermont	202	Iowa	137
Rhode Island	201	Minnesota	133
Massachusetts	199	Wisconsin	131
Delaware	190	North Carolina	117
Connecticut	179	Illinois	108
Ohio	177	Louisiana	97
West Virginia	174	Missouri	97
Kentucky	174	Kansas	90
Maryland	172	South Carolina	90
New Jersey	171	Mississippi	76
Michigan	169	Alabama	71
New York	168	Arkansas	70
Tennessee	166	Georgia	68
Indiana	164	Texas	63
Pennsylvania	142	Florida	58

Experience with Florida summers proves that the thermometer does not climb to the extremes it reaches even in Minnesota, while the never-failing strong breezes or trade winds that blow across the peninsula make the nights always cool, and even midday quite bearable in the shade. Few nights are so hot that a blanket is not necessary for covering.

Another peculiarity of our climate is that IT ALWAYS SEEMS COOLER THAN THE THERMOMETER WOULD INDICATE. Thus, in winter let the thermometer register 40 degrees, and you declare it is as cold as 20 would be at the North ; so in summer, if 90 is reached, and you sit in the shade, so cool is the breeze you would probably guess it to be 15 degrees cooler. It is this unexplained coolness that is the charm of our summers. The real drawback is not the intense heat, but the dullness and long-

continued heat. As New England winters are long and tedious, so eight months of summer is tiresome. Besides, the life and bustle of tourist business, with rapid sales of real estate, and the excitement incident to town building have subsided. There is no rush of haying and harvesting, as at the North, and little to do anyway.

All should know that SUMMER IS OUR RAINY SEASON—not dull, drizzling days, but short, hard tropical showers of twenty minutes or so each, at midday, often for a month: so what would otherwise be a dried-up desert, is kept fresh and blooming all the heated term. During winter there is often scarcely any rain from January 15 to May, which is as it should be for everything except vegetable gardening. Orange and other fruit trees do not seem to suffer, and it is wonderful how strawberries and flowers bloom with so little moisture in soil that would seem so easily dried.

It will be seen that this state of things presents exactly the reverse of Southern California's climate, where the winter is the rainy season, and the summer so dry that little can be grown without irrigation.

The lack of variety to supply the table in summer furnishes a problem to many a housewife, or until paterfamilias learns to adapt his methods of seed-time and harvest, so as to keep up a succession of vegetables, which can be done, but experience is necessary. Vegetable culture is more uncertain than at the North, owing to winter drouth and frosts, and one is not always as sure of a crop of potatoes, peas or cucumbers when planted in February, as from the May planting in the North. Remember, the thermometer drops to zero sometimes at Philadelphia in March, which means a slight frost to us in Northern Florida, yet we may be sure of being at least forty degrees warmer on an average the same day.



GATHERING ORANGES.

IS FLORIDA HEALTHY?

THIS is perhaps the most frequent of all questions the intending settler asks, and again the replies given vary so much, that he is in doubt which to believe. While some declare Florida to be the most healthful country in the world, others say it is the most malarious and deadly. As usual, the truth lies between the extremes, though statistics show the former statement is nearer being correct. Yet until recently life insurance companies would not allow their policy-holders to live in the so-called sickly air. Other and wiser companies take advantage of this, and make a specialty of Florida risks, finding them more profitable than those of other sections.

A great deal is said of "acclimating" and the "acclimating fevers" one is liable to have during the first summer. Of course, so radical a change of climate necessarily involves a change of dress and food, while the system undergoes a transformation also. The blood becomes thinner and the appetite naturally craves less of meats and more of fruits and farinaceous foods not so heating and stimulating.

If, however, the new-comer keeps up his hearty meat diet, and works in all weathers as he would North, early and late, by July of the first season, if naturally bilious, he will doubtless find his liver growing hard, and his complexion turning yellow; and if he continues this mode of life, in all probability he will have an attack of bilious or remittent fever, more or less severe according to his medical treatment.

All experienced Southern physicians unite in declaring that the climatic disorders peculiar to Florida are easily controlled, and are not comparable in mortality or obstinacy to the types of typhoid malaria often so prevalent at the North, or even to the old-fashioned chills and fever of the prairies. The

Florida fever is usually broken up at its start by heroic treatment, and the patient is inconvenienced scarcely a week.

Another phase known as "break-bone" or "dengue" fever, beginning with a back-ache, and running into a regular bone-ache, afflicts many residents on the St. John's River, occasionally in September or October, and is thought by many to be caused by brackish or half-salt water, as the same disorder is prevalent in New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, etc., where like conditions exist, but is seldom troublesome in the back country. Resident physicians declare dengue to be caused by careless exposure to the chilly night air of the fall months.

Hammock and limestone soils are more malarious than pine. In encountering this phase of malaria, the reader must remember that the settler escapes many diseases peculiar to his northern climate, but which do not occur in Florida, or if they exist at all, are easily broken up. Of these we may mention all fevers except those noted, consumption, pneumonia, asthma, rheumatism, and catarrh.

Many afflicted with these complaints are cured or greatly benefited by a residence in Florida. Many insist that the cold, dry atmosphere of Minnesota or Colorado is better for all throat and lung troubles than the moist and balmy air of our sunny South; and quote instances where people have died on returning from Florida, and cases of others, who were healed or benefited by going west. No climate will effect a cure where the patient is in the last stages of consumption. As there are opposites in temperament, complexion and disposition in the human race, it is admitted that these opposite classes require when ailing essentially different treatment or climate.

Thus, while the phlegmatic, slow, indolent nature may be stimulated and strengthened by the clear, frosty air of a Minnesota winter, the nervous, overworked, overstrung, weak-lunged invalid finds in the restful, balmy, lotus-eating climate

of Florida just the qualities that lull him to quiet and repose; while his thin blood, that so shrinks from contact with the severe cold of the North, here flows with healthier throbs, as he inhales outdoor air, and enjoys exercise denied him at home.

THE GREAT FREEZE OF JANUARY, 1886.

"OH, mine beautiful grove, mine beautiful grove! Yesterday he was worth \$28,000; to-day I would sell him for \$10,000."

The speaker, a Jew, was wringing his hands as he distractedly paced up and down the aisle of a sleeping-car on the evening of January 11, 1886, well remembered as the time of "the great freeze." The grove owner had been in Jacksonville, and, frightened by the cold wave, was hastening southward toward what he supposed was his half-ruined estate, meanwhile giving forth such exclamations as drew sympathy from his fellow passengers. Among the latter was a Scotchman who had been in the State for weeks, studying its resources, and, with caution peculiar to his nation, had slowly formed his own opinions. He knew of this mourner's orange grove, and as the latter passed his seat, quietly said, "I'll take your offer, sir." The Jew answered not a word, but suddenly sat down with his eye fixed upon the stranger in astonishment, and the rest of the evening he passed in meditation. Meanwhile the Scotchman and other passengers retired behind the swaying curtains, and the nasal sounds proceeding from their berths told of their forgetfulness of the freeze outside. Still the Hebrew sat and pondered.

Some time in the night our British friend was awakened by a poke in the ribs, and opened his eyes to see an Israelitish countenance bending over him, and to hear the query, "Have you that \$10,000 with you?" addressed to him. He replied: "No; I do not carry \$10,000 in greenbacks about with me." "What for

you offer me \$10,000, and you no have \$10,000? How I know who you are, and what you mean? You no have \$10,000." "Oh well, I can satisfy you on this score when we can get to a bank," was the cool reply. "No, no, I do not believe you. I will not sell you my grove for \$10,000. I did not mean what I said." And so the matter rested. In the early morning our Jewish traveler was agreeably surprised to find his "beautiful grove" comparatively unharmed, and it would take much more than \$28,000 to buy "him" to-day.

This illustrates the way the panic started. Growers themselves did it—not the outside papers. The orange growers took it for granted their trees could never stand 15 to 20 degrees below freezing point and live, and from their own statement telegrams were worded that became exaggerated into such head-lines in Northern dailies as "Every Orange Tree in Florida Killed!" "\$50,000,000 Damage!" "Skating in Florida!" etc.

Meanwhile the denuded orange trees, to give the lie to these reports, began to put forth leaves, and then blossoms, which latter set and produced THE HEAVIEST CROP Florida has ever sent forth—each golden apple a silent witness that Florida orange growing is still a success.

Unusually icy winters at the North are followed by fruitful years, but we did not expect this to be true of Florida. The freeze has had the effect to greatly strengthen the faith of all best informed as to the State's future. We did not before realize what an orange tree could endure, and as this was the coldest wave known in fifty years, we now feel comparatively safe. Few peach or other fruit growers but suffer loss of the whole or part of a crop at least one year in four, and it should not discourage orange growers to miss one crop in fifty.

Few understand that the Florida orange attains its growth by October, colors in November, and is then gathered and marketed, or left hanging ripe on the trees all winter at pleasure while awaiting higher prices. Of no other fruit is this true.

At least one-half of the crop of 1885-86 was gathered and marketed ere the freeze, while the portion frozen was an estimated loss of half a million dollars to the State. The early vegetable crops cut off were estimated at as much more, or a round million lost; heavy enough at best, but not a circumstance to what Kansas has suffered from grasshoppers for successive seasons; the Mississippi valley by floods, or Wisconsin by fire repeatedly.

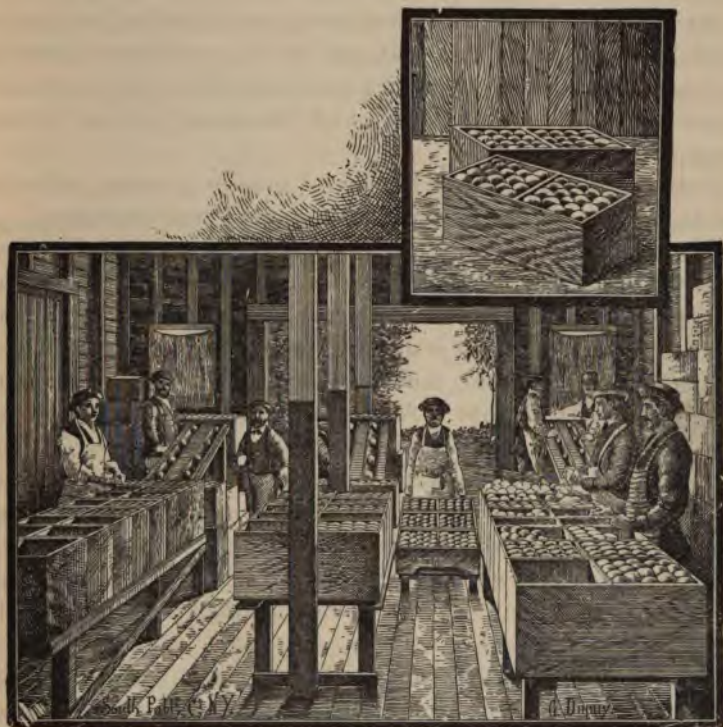
While the freeze naturally checked progress for a time, there was no approach to a financial panic, and no Northern visitor to-day would imagine such a calamity had occurred.

Of course the upper half of the State, where the majority of the older groves are planted, suffered the most. In the greater part of Polk and Manatee counties the leaves did not drop from the trees, and the great freeze seemed to have the effect of driving emigration further south and settling these hitherto comparatively unoccupied counties.

Possibly some orange grower in the "upper half" of the State will here rise to remark, rather tartly, that *his* grove was not damaged as much as many further south. And indeed this may be a fact. This and other cold waves were erratic in their course, sweeping down on one section, and often skipping the next; water, elevation and other unexplained causes contributing to this result. Yet in a general way the fact remains, that the further south you go the less danger there is of severe freezing.

ORANGES.

A WORLD of sentiment is connected with an orange grove. The orange tree itself is acknowledged to be the most beautiful of all fruit trees the year round, with its perfect form, clean, bright bark, and dense, glossy, evergreen foliage. When to these attractions are added some hundreds or thousands of



PACKING AND SHIPPING ORANGES.

bright yellow globes of fruit, which contrast so charmingly with their deep green setting, and when in February on each twig clusters of waxy, bridal blossoms perfume the air, the effect on one who but two days before might have been wading in snow at the North is apt to be intoxicating, and he often decides he MUST have an orange grove at any price, or without counting the cost. Thus it is properties are frequently sold at extreme prices under these influences, and the sequel is not always pleasant to hear.

There is a hard practical side to orange growing, wherein the toiling owner forgets all about beauty and fragrance. A wealthy Northern merchant who runs a Florida orange grove as he does his fancy farm, for pleasure, requiring no cash returns, is a different man from the one whom we are addressing in this practical chapter; and it is due the honest seeker for truth that he knows just what he must encounter in starting and cultivating a grove for profit. At the outset he must soberly consider the long, hungry gap between planting the tiny trees and plucking their golden harvest, and inquire, therefore, if he has the necessary capital, patience and perseverance to win, though beset by a thousand difficulties; for in Florida orange growing, as in business everywhere, life is full of perplexity and disappointment, and many fall by the way incapable of enduring the strain.

As to selection of soil, full advice is given in a special chapter on this subject, and we have little to do with the Hammock vs. Pine Land controversy, admitting that the land under both these denominations is good, and leaving the beginner to make choice for himself. The error most likely to occur—and a very common one—will doubtless be in buying too much; perhaps locking up all one's capital in so many acres of land as to leave no money for improvements. Ten acres for a settler with \$500 is all he can make profitable, for the land beyond this amount must lie wild and unproductive for want of money to develop.

After the tract is cleared and plowed, and if possible has lain for months to sweeten, as directed in another chapter, the interesting question arises, what varieties of oranges shall be chosen, and upon the selection the result largely depends whether the fruit shall pay after being grown and marketed ; for Florida orange growers must face the question of possible over-production, and acknowledge that only the best varieties of fruit, well packed, will in the future pay. •

But a short time since the simple brand "Florida" was all that was necessary to command large prices. As the crop increased, buyers, however, began to note that there was a great difference in the flavor and quality of even Florida oranges, and the assurance that they were grown in the State was not surety that they were first class. Should a Northern orchard owner carelessly set out ungrafted seedling apples, he could not expect profitable returns when his fruit was marketed.

True the Florida seedling oranges are, as a rule, superior to ungrafted apples, but all fruit shows a tendency to run out when left to itself, and to breed higher is the only way to improve it. Wise growers are already finding out that their choice budded Navels, Mediterranean Sweets or Mandarins bring in market double the price of ordinary seedlings, all owing to judicious selection of varieties. Newly-budded trees are presumably tender, and it is doubtless wisest in exposed situations or northern localities to plant good, strong, sweet seedlings, and bud them yourself at a favorable time. These buds if lost can be replaced again and again at small cost. Budding, familiar to Northern horticulturists, is a more rapid, sure and natural way of transforming varieties than grafting, and is employed in peach growing at the North. Any grower will show the newcomer how it is done, and a little practice will make one perfect in the operation.

The following are some of the most valuable budded varie-

ties. The list can be supplemented from any nurseryman's catalogue, which besides will give descriptions:

Nonpareil, Magnum Bonum, Mediterranean Sweet, Sweet Seville, Homosassa, Jaffa, Majorca, Navel, Mandarin, Tangerine, Hart's Tardiff. Resident growers have introduced the following local varieties: Pineapple, Starke, Madam Vinus, Cunningham.

SETTING THE TREES.—The new-comer will of course buy his orange trees rather than wait three or four years to grow them from the seed. If his purchase be pine land, he should not buy trees raised on hammock, but on soil like his own, or the trees will become stunted while adapting themselves to the change of soil, and never perhaps attain the vigorous growth they otherwise would. Let no careless negro tear up the trees you purchase; rather superintend the work, and, if necessary, handle the spade yourself. You cannot put in your time better than by seeing to it that each tree is lifted with rootlets and fibers mutilated as little as possible. As fast as dug, and before they dry at all in the sun, let a boy gather and dip the roots immediately into a prepared puddle of mud that will coat each fibrous root and keep it from drying and death. This is called "puddling," and is a process used by intelligent nurserymen and gardeners with great success wherever understood.

Let the trees be out of the ground as short a time as possible, and remember that each hour they are losing vitality, and success will be more certain the quicker they are well replanted. Nurseries are now so numerous and well distributed that it will not be necessary to have the trees, as a rule, shipped a long distance by rail, to be dried and bruised in transit. The ground should have been staked and holes dug where the trees are to be planted. These holes must be large and shallow. Two men are necessary in planting. While one shovels back the richest or top soil, the other works it in among the roots with his hand, packing it firmly and settling it by shaking the tree up

and down, gradually raising the tree so that when finally set the larger surface roots are HALF EXPOSED on top of the ground. This latter is important and natural to the tree. Many trees are smothered by being planted too deep. All this work takes time and cannot be hurried. If the soil is at all dry, use a pail of water to each tree in planting, washing the earth among the roots, and cover the surface with dry soil. Trees thus planted, if then well mulched—*i.e.*, the ground covered with litter, grass, etc., to prevent drying out—will almost immediately send out new roots and shoots, when they should be fertilized.

AFTER TREATMENT.—A “hungry gap” has been alluded to of four or five years between planting and harvest. This gap is no longer as “hungry” as it was, as railroads have brought a Northern demand for fresh vegetables, which can be grown among the trees, to the great benefit of the latter. Many a young grove, while increasing in value at the rate of \$100 per acre per year, is also paying its way, and helping to support the family as well, by yielding crops of snap beans, squash, tomatoes, melons, etc. This cannot be done, however, without light fertilizing. In July do not neglect sowing cow pease, to plow under for enriching the soil in September.

PROTECTION FROM FROST.—It is amazing how little will ward off a threatened frost. An overhanging tree, or a belt of woods to the windward, a building or high fence on the northwest, a lake of water, or, better than all, an elevation above surrounding flat woods. Any or all of these will often shield a tract of land from frost, while other portions adjacent, but not so protected, suffer. For young trees with tender, sappy buds, a slight protection of coarse, long grass, that grows spontaneously in every old field, if “stood up” and tied about the trees as Northern gardeners protect roses for the winter, has been found to well repay the cost.

For early vegetables we give an original plan used with great success by Connecticut tobacco growers to prevent wilting of



ORANGE GROVE AT DE LAND.



BRIDGE CROSSING THE ST. JOHNS.



ON THE TROPICAL TRUNK LINE.

plants. It is far more valuable to truck gardeners in Florida, to whom an early frost often means a great loss, not only entailing replanting, but a month's delay in marketing, bringing the grower into competition with Charleston and Norfolk farmers and their lower prices. Round, conical caps of stiff paste-board five inches high can be made at paper-box factories at about \$10 per thousand, and will last for years, occupying little room, as they nest into each other like strawberry baskets. On the approach of a cold wave, if the hills of melons, or of cucumbers and tomato plants, are in danger, take a hundred or more of these caps under the arm and as fast as one can walk place a cap over each hill or plant. An acre can thus be protected in an hour by two persons, and not only the crop saved but the high prices secured that others lose by neglect. In such ways brains pay in Florida gardening, while thoughtless persons lose and complain that "there is no money in vegetable growing."

CULTIVATION OF THE GROVE.—Here again there is a variety of opinions and methods; for the industry is new and much remains to be proved. However, there are various rules taught by common sense, which nevertheless the novice has to learn by dear experience, unless he copies from a neighbor or follows some written authority.

It is no longer considered wise to keep the horse and plow at work among the larger or bearing trees, tearing up and exposing the roots that lie close to the surface. Rather let the horse draw a smoothing harrow, with teeth inclined backward, which smooths over the roots and scarifies the surface as well as kills the sprouting weeds. A man with a hoe or rake must follow, loosening up the soil close to the tree, killing all weeds that escape the harrow, or covering exposed small roots.

Cultivation should cease late in the season, to allow the young growth to ripen and be in a better condition to resist frost, should one follow in the winter, as cultivation induces

luxuriant growth, and mischief follows if it be continued too late. The third or fourth year the ground will be filled with roots from the trees, and it will no longer be profitable or wise to grow vegetables in the orchard.

The first oranges produced will doubtless be a disappointment, and will lead you to think the variety bad, as they will be coarse and thick-skinned. Unlike the apple, old orange trees produce the best fruit, finer grained, more juicy, and of better flavor than that on young trees. There is no orange tree in the State known to be more than fifty years old, and a few produce 8,000 to 12,000 oranges a year each, while there are trees in Italy known to be hundreds of years old. So one who establishes a fine orange grove has an income provided for his children and grandchildren in all probability.

PROFITS OF ORANGE GROWING.

It is safe to affirm these have been larger than they will be again, as the great and increasing crop brings down the prices, and oranges are now graded in proportion to their quality as are other fruits. We have not known of \$1,000 to \$2,000 being commonly netted per acre the past two years, as had been before, and a much smaller return will be called fairly profitable according to agricultural standards. A well-cultivated five-acre, five-year-old budded grove often produces at least 100 boxes of fruit, worth from one dollar to two dollars per box after freight and commissions are paid. By the time the grove is ten years old, it should produce 500 boxes per acre, with a proportionate increase in receipts.

A young grove that nets its owner \$1,000 for its fruit, is worth \$10,000 and considered by shrewd men a good investment at that, as the crop so rapidly increases and there is no *dying by* old age to take into account.

WHY ARE SO MANY GROVES FOR SALE, then, if orange growing is profitable? may be asked. For the most natural reasons in the world: First of all, because it pays to start groves to sell. The average Yankee is an impatient fellow, and goes at his business with a rush. He can never think of waiting the five or ten years necessary to start and bring into bearing a grove. Rather would he pay several times the cost for one already producing, or about to bring forth, whose owner, after his years of toil, may be embarrassed or too greatly in debt to hold it longer, but is ready to take the cash it brings and start another at less cost and free of financial worry. A Western gentleman who purchased a grove at what seemed to the writer a fabulous price (over \$1,400 per acre), informed him a year after that the investment had paid him over 25% already. Better than he could do out West, he gleefully said. Again, five years is a long time to toil for a harvest, and many do not have the perseverance to hold on so long, but are ready to sell for cash.

STANDARD OF VALUE.—Your orange grove that produces already one hundred boxes of fruit per annum, well located and thrifty, is worth at least \$1,000. If producing 1,000 boxes of fruit, it is worth \$10,000, on a basis of 10% increase at \$1 per box, which is certainly moderate, as the trees may be depended on to produce more as they grow older. An orange tree that bears 1,000 oranges is thus well worth \$100 (fruit being estimated at one cent each on the tree); or if fifty such trees are on one acre, the grove is worth \$5,000; but such groves are indeed rare, though isolated specimen trees have produced 5,000 and even 8,000, 10,000, and 12,000 oranges. But these should not be quoted to lead one to believe he could attain such results for an average.

One can well afford to fertilize such productive groves, which draw heavily on the soil for support, and if sufficient food is denied, the fruit will be small, rusty and of inferior quality.

DISEASES OF THE ORANGE TREE.—Even the peerless orange

trees have not escaped the curse of Adam, but must needs battle their way for life. Apple growers have to fight forty distinct species of insects, including the terrible borers that work all unseen. Such an array would appall an orange grower, who sweats over his toil of exterminating slugs and scale. "DIE-BACK" has been alluded to, and is doubtless the chief of drawbacks, as its cause cannot always be explained. It is harassing to note a bearing tree losing vigor, growing yellow, and finally dying outright. Other afflicted trees simply make no growth, or die back each year the few inches of advance they make. Stagnant water about the roots is always a fruitful source of this trouble; hard-pan clay soil also. The former may be cured by ditching often; the latter there is no help for except the expensive and artificial method of lifting the tree and filling in soil underneath, which is often resorted to. Better forbear planting on such soil at the outset.

Let a tree for any cause cease to grow, or its foliage become yellow, and it is amazing how swarms of insect pests immediately assail it, chief of which is the scale. Imported on nursery stock from China twenty years ago, it spread over the State, making sad havoc. Our State entomologist declares that one pair will breed a million in one season. A species of lady-bug luckily came to the rescue by feeding upon them, and whale-oil soap and other decoctions do the rest.

A favorite method among growers is, with scrubbing-brush and pail of whale-oil soap-suds and sand, to scour the trunks and largest branches of trees, giving them the clean, healthy bark so repulsive to scale insects, and so attractive to the eye.

ORANGE RUST has long puzzled growers, and is a serious drawback, fully one-half the crop the past season being discolored. While it does not affect the quality of the fruit inside, it hurts its sale, and "Russets" are graded fully \$1 per box less for this reason. Sometimes hammock lands in certain localities (as, the last year, Halifax River) are free, and pine



BELAIR GROVE, NEAR SANFORD.

LANE LIBRARY

land afflicted, and again VICE VERSA. The government deemed the matter of enough importance the past year to send Prof. H. G. Hubbard, U. S. Entomologist, to make an investigation, and his very full report has been published. He pronounces rust the work of a mite—a minute insect which feeds upon the oils of the orange peel, and whose perforations cause the discoloration. He says: “If severely attacked by rust before it has completed its growth, the orange does not attain its full size. Very rusty fruit is always small. Its quality is, however, improved rather than deteriorated. The toughened rind preserves it from injury and decay, prevents evaporation from within, and carries the ripening process to a higher point. Rusty oranges can be shipped without loss to great distances.” Prof. Hubbard recommends one pound of whale-oil soap dissolved in one gallon of water sprayed on the tree as a remedy. If die-back, scale and rust are kept off, the grower need have little to fear from the various other insects, which are “light afflictions” compared with those named.

HOW TO EAT AN ORANGE.—“Nasty, sloppy things! I won’t eat another one this winter!” The speaker was bending with orange juice dripping from each finger, and flecks of yellow sacs bedaubed his mustache and beard. He was a new-comer and had not learned the fine art of orange eating that a Floridian of a month’s residence acquires; for, be it known, the orange pulled fresh from the tree is a far different article from the same after weeks of transportation and exposure for sale, during which it not only loses a portion of its juice, the surfeit of which so annoyed the grumbler above quoted, and which delights the average tourist, but a large portion of flavor evaporates as well. To enjoy to the full the best of our known fruits, one must needs walk out under the verdant trees, select a medium-sized, thin-skinned russet, pull, pull hard until off it comes, leaving a hole at the stem, ~~“plugged” and worthless for shipping, but just right for eating.~~

Pare it as you would an apple, cut in halves cross ways, and suck from the ruptured cells nectar fit for gods. If more fastidious, use a teaspoon.

Add to the charm of orange eating, a midwinter mid-day, temperature 70 to 80 degrees, rendering open-air exercise a delight, and you have two important reasons why Florida is and always will be popular as a winter resort, especially when it can be reached in thirty-six hours from New York City.

PACKING, SHIPMENT AND MARKETING THE ORANGE.

ORANGES for market are never pulled or picked from the trees. This usually results in plugging, I.E., the stem pulls out, exposing the sacs, and the fruit does not keep. For gathering, regular nursery pruning shears are used, and with light ladders and a sack or tin box fitted to the back, the picker reaches here and there the fruit growing on the ends of the branches, descending frequently to carefully empty the oranges into boxes underneath, which are loaded upon a wagon or tram and hauled to the packing-house. Here they are allowed to stand and sweat a day or two, when they wilt or shrink a little, and the rind is not so brittle, but tougher. Then they are sized by rolling them down an inclined trough, whose sides gradually spread, allowing all small ones to drop through,—first into a box containing small ones of the same size, the larger ones going into the boxes further down. From here the fruit is taken, wrapped with tissue paper often stamped with the name of grove or grower, and snugly packed by hand in even layers—128, 144, 176, 228 to 240 in each box, the number being stenciled, together with the brand—"brights," "russets" or "fancy"—and the stencil of the commission merchant or fruit exchange to which it may be consigned added.

Some groves are large or important enough to have railroads go out of their way, or run branches with side tracks, from which one to three cars per day are shipped during the entire packing season. A car contains 200 to 250 boxes, and refrigerator cars, iced en route, are often used to keep an even, cool temperature and protect from sudden violent changes of weather, especially freezing.

MARKETING THE ORANGE CROP—PAST MANAGEMENT AND PRESENT IMPROVEMENT.—Nothing but the superior quality of the Florida orange has saved it from extinction in the market. It is sad to ponder the losses that have been the result of such gross mismanagement. Many a poor young man, after five or ten years of unremitting toil, has brought his thrifty trees into bearing and confidently consigned them, duly packed and labeled, to the far-off unknown commission man in New York, Philadelphia, or Chicago. After weeks and weeks of weary waiting, there comes a check of such small amount that the grower eagerly looks over the accompanying letter for the reason. He reads: "Your fruit came to hand on the 22d in bad condition, being two weeks on the road; much was badly frozen, and quickly decayed," etc. Or, instead of a check, perhaps a letter comes similar to the above, inclosing a bill for transportation for the fruit that was ruined by the company's neglect. Other fine oranges, well packed, arrived in good order, and straightway fell into the hands of a "bogus" or "curbstone" merchant, who pocketed the receipt in toto, letting the far-off, unsophisticated grower whistle for his money. Representatives of the latter class annually make trips to Florida, spend their ill-gotten gains in high living at the grand hotels, scattering glittering stencil-plates and glowing circulars among the orange growers, soliciting their custom, and depart, like trappers, to await the result after setting their snares. As the fruit began to color on the trees, the owner would ask his neighbor who he was going to ship his fruit to. The answer would be, "I

reckon I will try S—— this year, C—— cheated me so last. He talked so fair I could hardly refuse him." "Well, if you trust him, I will, too," would be the answer. In this manner nearly the whole crop of the neighborhood would, perhaps, go to one rascal, and an otherwise thriving community be seriously embarrassed.

This has been the darkest side of fruit growing in Florida, with exceptions more or less for the better, as the honesty of the dealer and the efficiency of the transportation company were apparent. Two years ago the situation became so serious that public meetings were held, and each local paper devoted columns to this important question. The result has been that a "State Fruit Exchange" has been formed, with headquarters at Jacksonville, Florida, incorporated under the excellent State laws. The stockholders embrace many of the largest orange growers, none of whom can own but a limited amount of stock. This company has established a warehouse and offices in Jacksonville, and its general manager has agencies among the most prominent and trustworthy firms in each of the large Northern cities. Cold storage and auction companies have also been lately established, and the abuses, as detailed above, it would seem, are lessened, and the greatest dread of the settler bids fair to vanish, for the advantages of such a co-operative systematic action are apparent. The Florida Fruit Exchange proposes, with all its advantages, to handle all fruit consigned to it, and remit for the same weekly. Its manager will be in constant telegraphic communication with the great markets, and the law of supply and demand can thus have play, and the gluts that sometimes occur in one city while another is not supplied can be remedied.

While we do not look for perfection at first in these enterprises, it is yet a step in the right direction, and the noble Florida orange will be enabled to occupy the position and command the price which its rare qualities entitle it to.

WHERE THE ORANGES COME FROM.—FAMOUS GROVES.

THE most productive and widely quoted Florida orange grove is that owned by James A. Harris, of Citra, Marion County, Florida. Mr. Harris is a native Floridian, and fifteen years ago was a student in a lawyer's office in Ocala, his county seat. By the advice of his employers he invested his savings in the purchase of a tract covered with wild orange trees, containing about 700 acres, on the south shore of Orange Lake, intending to carry out the then untried experiment of budding the wild sour trees with sweet varieties. His small capital of \$1,200 was exhausted at the outset, and his original purchase of 500 acres became reduced to its present size, 185 acres, in raising money to carry on the enterprise. The original 500 acres is to-day an immense bearing grove owned by many firms. When the trees began to bear there was no railroad nearer than twenty miles, but the fast-increasing crop made the construction of the present Florida Railway and Navigation Company's road to this grove a necessity in 1881, and its real profit began. But twenty acres came first into bearing from the earlier budded trees, and this twenty acres to-day cannot, probably, be equaled for productiveness in the State.

About 10,000 boxes were shipped in 1882-3 ;

About 20,000 boxes were shipped in 1883-4 ;

About 22,000 boxes were shipped in 1884-5 ;

About 10,000 boxes were shipped in 1885-6

(before the freeze destroyed the fruit) ; and about 38,000 were shipped in 1886-7, or directly after the freeze.

The total cost of cultivation, picking and packing, in this grove is less than 20 per cent. of the gross receipts.



POLK COUNTY GROVE AFTER THE FREEZE, SHOWING FOLIAGE AND FRUIT
ON THE TREES.

Nowhere in the State can the visitor obtain a better idea of Florida orange growing. Standing on the rear platform of the train as it passes through this wonderful grove, whose trees when loaded with fruit almost brush the sides of the car, a sensation is produced not easily forgotten. The packing-house, side tracks, tramways, teams, and implements of this mammoth grove indicate a head of rare executive ability. Directly across the railroad track from Mr. Harris's grove are the 160 acres, covered with orange trees, formerly part of Mr. Harris's original 500 acres, now belonging to Bishop, Hoyt & Co., whose trees are equally thrifty, and as productive according to their age.

A smaller grove—that of Dunn Bros.—may now be quoted as an illustration, on a smaller scale, of Florida orange growing. This, too, is part of the 500-acre wild orange grove. It consists of 18 acres, and a regular debit and credit account has been kept with it from the start by its business-like owners. Its total expense for nine years, including original cost, is \$7,200. Up to the end of the nine years it had produced \$25,000 worth of fruit. The proprietors had been offered \$60,000 for the grove, but declared \$100,000 would not tempt them to part with it, as \$10,000 worth of fruit was then on the trees, and the crop was doubling each year.

Near by is 130 acres of orange grove owned by a company of mechanics in Dayton, Ohio, with but 30 acres in bearing. The whole amount of the principal had been realized by the company three years ago ; the next year 14% dividend was declared, and the grove is worth \$75,000. Wonderful stories might be told of the Mathews-Lindsey Company, Keep, Sampson, Means, Barrs, Matheson, and other famous groves, all in this vicinity, yet Orange Lake is considered too far north for safe orange growing ; but the dense hammock growth of trees, and water protection, sheltered the trees during the great freeze. So they were less injured than those in more exposed places further south.

Lest we too greatly "enthuse" the reader on the subject of orange growing, it should here be added that wild orange stock when budded produces finer oranges, more quickly, and at less cost than any other. The wild orange groves are now out of the market since their true value has become known.

About Ocala, twenty miles south of Orange Lake, are many famous groves, planted on rich hammock land, Brown, Eichelberger, Green, Potter, and others, owning in the aggregate hundreds of acres. Lake Weir, a beautiful lake 15 miles south, has hundreds of acres in bearing around its elevated shores, the trees showing by their vigor and productiveness the value of sandy pine land for citrus fruits.

On the shores of Lake Griffin near Leesburg, Sumter County, twenty miles further south, is another body of budded wild orange groves, about which truthful stories might be told about as amazing as those of Orange Lake. Lee Brothers, Cunningham, Kydd, Phares, Gen. Tillson, Col. Roberts, Col. Lanier, and others ship immense quantities of fruit. At Panasoffkee, in the same county, is another tract of wild budded groves with a profitable history.

One need not go far from Jacksonville to see beautiful productive orange groves. The famous "Mitchell" grove, owned by Mrs. Alexander Mitchell, but two miles up the river, has been made so great a resort by tourists, that the owner is obliged to forbid trespassing; Mandarin, but fifteen miles from Jacksonville, the former winter home of Mrs. H. B. Stowe, has many truly magnificent groves, while from the steamboat the rich, peculiar verdure may be noted of many a thrifty grove from here to Palatka. The famous "Hart" grove here, it is claimed, has netted the greatest price per acre of any similar acreage in the State, or from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for the fruit off four and a half acres per annum. As the oranges are sold mostly to visiting tourists at fancy prices, this is not improbable.

San Mateo, five miles further up, has hundreds of acres of magnificent orange trees, 40,000 boxes being shipped from the dock at this place alone the past season. The rolling pine hills about De Land are covered with vigorous orange trees. The Gillen grove at this place is doubtless the most familiar to Florida inquirers, from the lithograph views that have been so widely circulated, giving many a would-be Floridian a faint idea of what has been described as the most beautiful sight in America, viz., a bearing and blooming orange grove. At Sanford, a few miles further on, is the celebrated Speer grove, with the best record in number of oranges of any of its size, simply because it is one of the oldest. Its 550 trees have borne for years fruit that has netted \$10,000 to \$15,000 per annum—all on less than five acres of land.

Belair grove of 100 acres, also near Sanford, is famous as the birth-place of some new choice varieties, as well as the Belair lemon, now so widely cultivated. A few miles south of Sanford are some large, productive orange groves on the shore of Lake Jessup, one of the most beautiful being owned by Dr. Henry Foster, of Clifton Springs. The Markham grove of 100 acres, a few miles west of Sanford, on the Sanford and Lake Eustis Railroad, is making a wide reputation for productiveness.

Every one knows of the Indian River oranges as "the best in the world." The Indian River region is southeast of Sanford, and the famous Dummitt grove, where is found the original Indian River orange, is visited by many, and its fruit brings extremely high prices. C. B. Magruder of Rockledge, Indian River, has introduced several varieties of choice oranges, some of which carried off premiums at the New Orleans Exposition, while his exhibits of fruits are a feature of the annual Florida State fairs in February, and would be greatly missed.

At Spring Garden, Volusia County, is the 200-acre grove of Major Hart Morris, mostly wild budded stumps, like the



THE CRACKER AND THE ALLIGATOR.

Harris grove, but younger and destined to be one of the most productive in the State. The Halifax River region north of Indian River, until recently without railroad transportation, is shipping already a large quantity of the finest fruit, rivaling if not equaling the Indian River brand. From Sanford to Orlando the traveler is never out of sight of large and fine orange groves, and frequently on both sides of the track nearly as far as one can see, are orange trees, orange trees, till, like the countryman in Fulton Market, the traveler exclaims, "Where are there people enough to eat all this?" Orlando alone has probably 1,000 acres planted in its immediate vicinity, and though the railroad has been finished across the State to Tampa but two years, oranges are shipped in quantity from many stations. Hernando County until within two years had no railroad, and now Brooksville, the county seat, sends thousands of boxes to market from groves planted years ago in faith that transportation would come. The same is true of Bartow and Fort Meade, in Polk County, which may be depended upon to furnish fruit when more northern counties fail by reason of severe frost. Manatee and De Soto counties are the newest in the march of development, but here, too, the piney woods are studded with young orange trees.

OTHER FLORIDA FRUITS.

THE reader may be weary of oranges, and wonder if Florida is good for nothing else than "climate and oranges." Indeed there is reason for criticism in devoting too much attention to this noble fruit, and neglecting others as promising and probably more profitable. Among these, LEMONS are perhaps the most important. The size a Florida lemon will attain can be told only at the risk of losing a reputation for veracity. Nevertheless the writer solemnly affirms that he was the bearer



SILVER SPRING.



SCENES ON LAKE HARRIS.

of two Florida lemons for exhibit at a Northern fair, that grew on one twig so as to indent each other, and that weighed together eleven pounds. Truth compels us to add, also, that they were worthless for the uses a lemon is supposed to be made for, the acid being turned to an insipid watery flavor, the rind thicker and more warty than even the aldermanic proportion of the fruit would suggest. Florida fruit growers have but lately discovered that good lemons are never full grown, but should be picked when of the right marketable size, as green as green can be, and when wrapped in tissue for days or weeks, come forth yellow, acid and juicy. Until very recently no lemon had been discovered suitable to our soil and climate. After continued trials and experiments, three or four improved varieties are catalogued, and the list bids fair to increase after other hybridized seedlings are more fully tested. Florida lemons, like her oranges, come when foreign competition is lightest. They are best during the hot midsummer months, when lemonade is most in demand, and they must therefore bring the best prices and provide an income for the grower during the dull summer months.

LEMON cultivation is in nearly all respects like that of the orange tree, but as the trees are more tender than the latter, greater care must be given by protecting from frost. There are few successful lemon groves yet, but many productive lemon trees.

Lyman Phelps, of Sanford, who introduced the Belair lemon, shows receipts netting at least \$1 per box more than foreign fruit was bringing at the same time, and says a box of Belair lemons weighs one-third more than would a similar box of foreign fruit, showing their lack of rind or pulp and excess of juice. Villa Franca is a well-tested, choice new variety that went unharmed through the great freeze, and is a great acquisition.

Lemon trees, too, are liable to scale and die-back as orange

trees. So with the lemon, as in all horticulture, "eternal vigilance is the price" of good product.

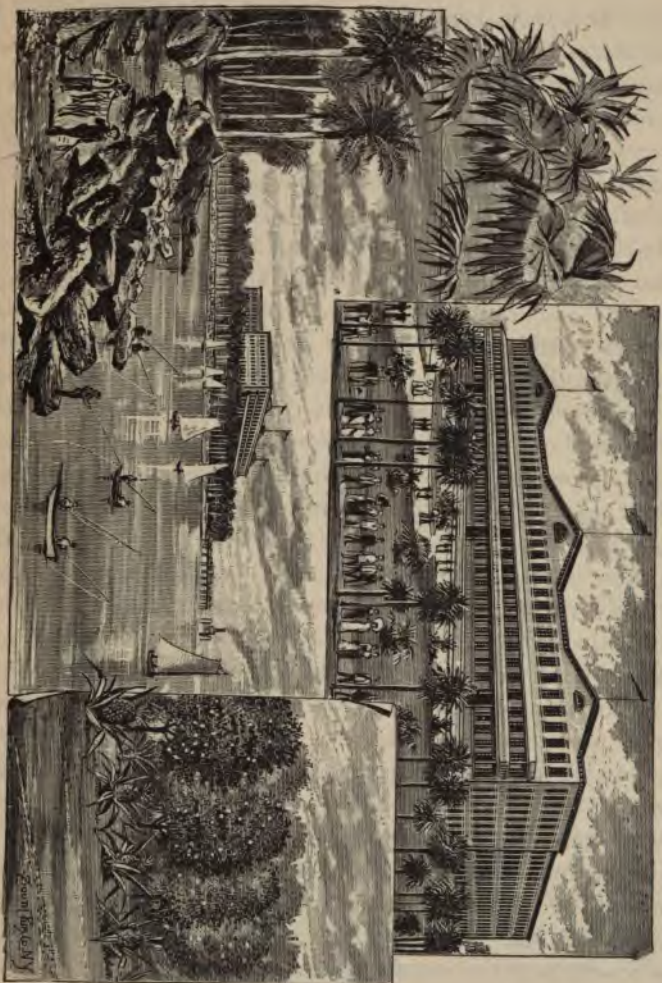
LIMES.—In shape like diminutive lemons: in flavor, concentrated acid; have a more delicate growth and finer foliage. The trees are bushy and lower, and are very impatient of cold. They bear usually abundantly in April or May, and lime-juice is preferred by the initiated to lemonade. It is highly beneficial to the health. For market they are hardly as profitable as oranges or lemons, as the demand is limited.

CITRON of commerce also belongs to the citrus family, and its growth is somewhat like the orange and lemon, but more dwarf. The fruit when ripe looks in the tree like yellow squash of the warty kind. Citrons are not grown to any great extent for market, but as ornaments and for family use. A few trees are found in nearly every yard or orchard. The methods laid down for orange culture will apply to the citron.

GRAPE FRUIT is in growth the most vigorous and beautiful of the citrus family, and its fruit is becoming more and more prized in Northern markets. As in the case of many other tropical fruits, the taste for it is an acquired one, but the disgust that accompanies the first attempt to eat it turns to a keen relish, and one soon craves the bitter flavor as a natural antidote to all forms of biliousness. The fruit is two or three times as large as the orange, and bright yellow.

SHADDOCK are even larger than grape fruit, looking on the tree like pumpkins, perfectly round, yellow and weighing often several pounds. Their texture is coarse and the flavor indifferent. They have small commercial value.

THE LE CONTE PEAR is one of the wonders of Southern horticulture. Growing readily from cuttings on poor sandy soil, it attains a vigor and healthfulness unknown to any of our Northern varieties. Trees five years old are as large and far more healthy than Bartletts at ten years old at the North. They are, however, slow to come into fruitage, but as they ripen



SCENE ON INDIAN RIVER AT ROCKLEDGE.

in May and June, bring good prices when shipped north. Many growers declare that they are more profitable than oranges, backing their assertion by showing receipts. In quality they are not as good as our choice Northern pears; in size, medium. When hybridized with some finer flavored sort, we shall look to see a perfect pear as the result. This pear will produce best after an unusually cold winter, and a crop may be expected when more tender fruits fail. We look to the Le Conte as the parent of a long list of new choice varieties.

PEACH culture, for a business, is new in Florida, and the varieties suited to our climate are few. All Northern kinds are useless, and money is thrown away when invested in peach trees from Northern nurseries. All our winters are like the Northern May, so the trees bloom in January only to blast and bloom again, and when they should blossom are exhausted and in poor condition; so they do not bear. Less than ten years ago, J. P. DePass introduced a Chinese peach, called PEAN-TO, that has been a great success, and fortunes have been made in its cultivation. The fruit is of peculiar shape, and is now familiar in Northern markets in May, as the earliest of all peaches, being very flat, but highly colored; very juicy, but not of the richest flavor. We know growers who have netted \$8 per peck crate, and have seen a single tree that yielded \$120 worth of fruit when five years old; but such prices are past.

Peach trees are frequently planted among orangetrees, when the latter are set at good distances, say 30 feet apart, and are taken out of the way when the slower-growing golden fruit requires all the room. It is not uncommon for Pean-To peaches to bear the second year from planting, or to make as much growth on poor soil in one year as a Delaware grower can force in three years.

THE HONEY PEACH ripens soon after the Pean-To, and is of the orthodox peach shape and flavor, though small. It has

never been as popular as the first named, but should always be planted with it for variety. There are some new seedlings of great promise, **BIDWELL'S EARLY** now taking the lead. Trees of this variety attain surprising vigor of growth and early productiveness, while their size and quality leave little to be desired. They will doubtless largely supplant the **Pean-To** as an early peach. **BIDWELL'S LATE**, introduced by the same well-known nurseryman, from whom they are named, is a wonderfully productive but later variety, that should be planted for a succession.

THE JAPAN PERSIMMON, or "fruit of the gods," is often grafted upon wild persimmon stock, and makes prodigious growth, while the fruit is as delicate as a tomato, rendering it risky to ship. A few trees should find room on every place and gladden the family by their delicious fruit in August or September.

THE JAPAN PLUM, or **LOQUAT** is a beautiful evergreen tree, bearing great clusters of amber-colored fruit which ripens in February or March. It may be considered as the Southern plum, though unlike the plum in growth and flavor. The loquat is tender when young, but highly ornamental as a lawn tree and of easy culture.

THE MULBERRY grows with ease, and ripens its blackberry-like fruit in early March. Birds and poultry are fond of it, as well as the fruit grower and his family, especially when it is made into pies.

THE COCOANUT seems to thrive only on the keys or islands along the coast, and is far more tender than other Florida fruits, though requiring no culture after planting, and yielding its ripe nuts every day of the year—an almost clear profit. Many persons are spending large sums in planting cocoanuts, and remarkable returns may be expected.

THE OLIVE is of slow maturity, while living to a great age, and has hardly yet been considered in the light of a staple fruit,

though often planted for ornament and to fruit if it will. A bearing olive orchard of great age on Cumberland Island, near Fernandina, shows that olives will grow and bear if planted.

DATE PALMS, like the cocoanut, are distinctly tropical, yet are often grown in yards where protection from frost is easy. They can hardly be reckoned among staple Florida fruits.

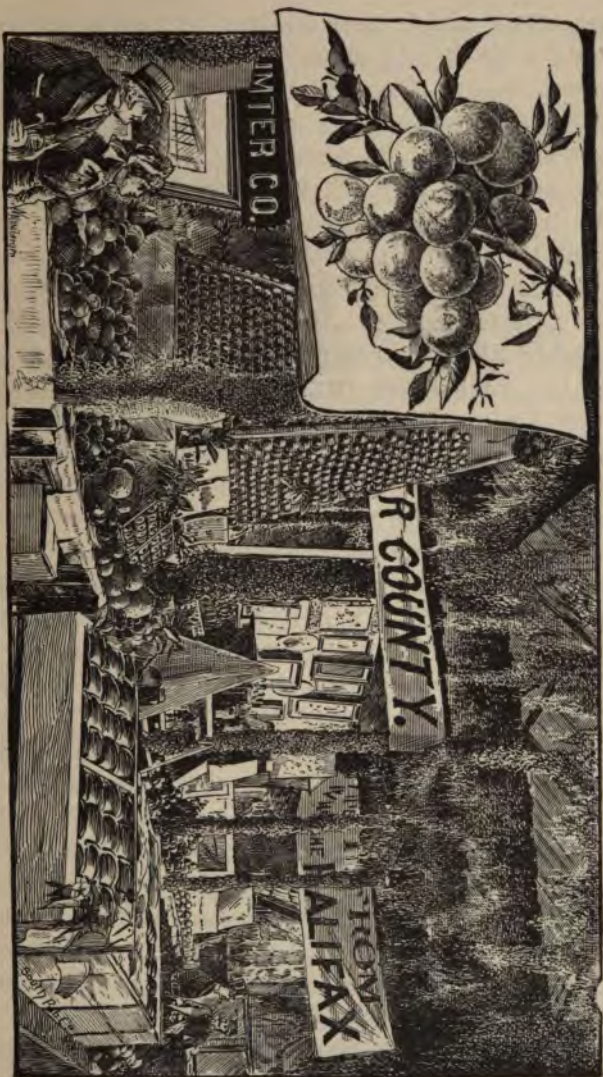
BANANAS wave their banner-like leaves around nearly every "Cracker's" cabin, and often mature noble bunches of fruit, but are entirely tropical, and a slight frost spoils the prospect of fruit for the coming year, so they are not to be depended on for profit.

THE GUAVA is one of Florida's fruits that is never seen in Northern States. "Too tender for shipment," is the reason. But they make the most delicious of jellies, which find a wide sale. A lady of the writer's acquaintance netted \$30 from one bush. The evergreen Cattley guava is a great improvement over the deciduous and more tender native varieties. The presence of guava bushes about a place is an infallible guaranty that there has been no killing frost there. "Even my guava bushes are unhurt," is a proud boast after a general freeze.

THE PINEAPPLE, when carefully grown in Florida, attains a size and a flavor unknown outside a British hot-house. Specimens weighing 8 to 13 pounds are not uncommon, choice fruit often bringing 75 cents to \$1 each, while the common sorts go a-begging at 10 cents. The great freeze checked their culture, but Florida's pines will soon be as famous as her oranges.

THE PAWPAW is greatly prized in South Florida, though seldom seen in market, owing to its poor "keeping" qualities.

THE SAPODILLA, CUSTARD APPLE, ALLIGATOR PEAR, are often planted to make up a collection, but are of little value in a commercial way.



SOUTH FLORIDA FAIR, FEB. 1887, AT ORLANDO.

GRAPES.—The native Scuppernong are astonishingly productive, and a good wild variety. Florida cannot be said to be the natural home of the grape. Our bunch varieties like the Concord, Roger's Hybrids, etc., mildew badly during the wet summers, when they should be ripening. Strange to say, however, hot-house kinds, as Black Hamburg, grown at the North with difficulty under glass, are the ones that thrive best in Florida, and the sweet little Delaware grapes grow nicely on the clay lands about Tallahassee. A fortune is assured the enterprising nurseryman who introduces choice grapes especially suited to Florida's requirements.

Among the small fruits **THE STRAWBERRY** takes the lead as a market berry. But the Florida soil and climate are so different from those in the natural home of this delicious fruit, that, as in the case of pears and peaches, totally different varieties are required for success. The kinds now grown for Northern shipment have only firmness and productiveness to recommend them. When to these qualities some enterprising horticulturist introduces a variety distinguished for its flavor, we may expect the demand to greatly increase; also the profit in growing them. Northern sorts of exquisite flavor do not stand a Southern sun or sandy soil, drying out in mid-summer. Our winters, too, being so mild, they are in a state of perpetual and exhaustive bloom which only the bright but sour Newnan's Prolific seems to be equal to. This sort gives the first red berries late in January, and the same plants will furnish ripe fruit up to May, the main crop ripening in February and March. In the aggregate, strawberry beds produce as much as they do at the North, or even more; yet, as the season is prolonged into months instead of a fortnight, one cannot fill a basket with ripe fruit as quickly as he could in a Northern bed in June. Large prices are assured to those who ship fine berries in February and great sums are often realized from small beds.

BLACKBERRIES, both the tall and creeping varieties, grow

abundantly in the hammocks and are ripe in April. They are not cultivated, nor shipped long distances.

WHORTLEBERRIES grow on a smaller bush, wholly unlike the Northern wild huckleberry, but are equally delicious and larger. They grow on poor scrub or sand, and ripen in May.

Florida is the home of the MELON, especially sweet and juicy watermelons, which attain size and flavor hardly equaled elsewhere. It is always a matter of wonder how such monstrous fruit finds nourishment and moisture in poor, dry, sandy soil, which seems best fitted for its culture. Virgin or newly plowed pine land that is too sour to produce corn or vegetables will grow splendid melons. We have known four carloads to be shipped from four acres in May and June, yet the ground seemed fairly covered with the remainder, so that those which were shipped were not missed. Only the largest are sold, and those must be early and fine to insure a profit, as transportation is costly, and the Georgia crop matures but little later than Florida's first, and thus comes into competition.

GARDENING IN FLORIDA.

LET a thrifty Jersey market gardener visit a so-called Florida gardener's realm, and his nose would elevate in disgust. Such slack ways, bad cultivation, poor plows and tools, badly cleared and drained fields he would say were never seen ; and perhaps he would mentally declare if profit could be made under such management, what might not be secured with business-like methods.

In Florida, newly cleared hammock land is selected for the heavier crops, as cabbage or Irish potatoes; and to clear it thoroughly the first year from stumps and roots is, if not impossible, impracticable, costing more than the land. Negro labor, too, is mostly employed, and a thrifty Northern man

soon has to acknowledge himself beaten when he tries to get Sambo to adopt business-like methods. Then, too, it must be confessed gardening in Florida is a far more "risky" enterprise than it is on Long Island or in New Jersey, where, if prices for produce seem low, they are usually to be depended upon.

The Florida gardener is at present wholly at the mercy of the transportation companies and commission men, the former demanding the lion's share, and often bringing him into debt to them for produce that did not sell for enough to clear expenses. The Florida gardener knows a late frost that may nip his melon vines or tomato plants will give the Georgia gardeners the advantage in replanting, as it is only when his crops are earlier than the Georgia crops that he is sure of better prices. If his crops are not earlier, market men will not go to Florida for produce that they can buy as cheap nearer home, and therefore fresher and at less cost of transportation than from Florida. These obstacles may seem insurmountable to a beginner, yet instances are numerous where great prices have been secured for early vegetables. For early tomatoes, potatoes and onions, Florida has almost entirely supplanted Bermuda, while cabbage, cucumbers, squash, snap beans, etc., are shipped in great quantities. Prices, of course, greatly fluctuate, and a high quotation brings such a glut in a week that hardly are the freights realized. The large profits are, therefore, made by the "early bird," and he that is most skillful in securing early crops will be the winner.

We have noted in another chapter how, by pasteboard caps, crops may be saved from frost and secured a month earlier. This is only one of many suggestions that an ingenious man will follow out, thus succeeding where others fail. We will here give a practical illustration of Florida market gardening:

Three years ago, while visiting North, a clerk in a music store approached the writer, saying he wished to go to Florida, and asked advice. To the query, "What do you think you

could do for a living in Florida?" he replied, "Well, I think I could succeed as a gardener." His fashionable clothes and clerkish appearance did not suggest success, and we gave him no encouragement. He answered, "Well, I am going, and am bound to succeed, whether you want me to go or not." As his mind was thus made up, he was invited to join our party on return. In New York he stepped into a seed store and purchased five pounds of cabbage seed, and less than a week later we bade him good-by at a station far down in Florida, where he proposed to try his luck. He purchased a partly-drained tract on the shore of a lake, very rich, but liable to overflow in a wet season. Engaging board at \$15 per month with a settler, he dug up a patch and sowed his cabbage seed in December, which came up thickly. With difficulty he procured a man and team to plow ten acres early in January (the land had no trees to be cleared, as it had been overflowed), and he soon had nearly the whole tract set to cabbage, with the assistance of another young man who joined later and boarded with him. Next he ordered a quantity of seed potatoes in New York, which were also planted in February. In March he was shipping cabbage in large quantities, and early in April he gleefully showed receipts from his New York commission men for 535 barrel crates, which brought \$3 to \$5 per crate in New York, with about \$1.25 each out for expenses. He was so busy shipping cabbage he had not time to dig and market his potatoes. At that time potatoes were quoted at \$9 per barrel, but before his reached New York they were down to \$3, and his consignment was badly rotted from being kept too long, and 100 barrels were thrown overboard, condemned by the health officer.

Thinking he had learned by experience, he came North for the summer, fully determined to plant 100 acres in vegetables the coming winter, making plans far beyond his capital, and taking, beside his mother and sister, eight young men unused to Florida ways, but bent on a "lark" at his expense. This



A POLK COUNTY LAKE.

was the year of the freeze. High water completed the ruin of his crops, and our plucky young gardener found a position as a good hotel clerk. There is no moral to this but to illustrate an average experience of a well-meaning young man from the North. Neither can we go at length into general directions for cultivating each vegetable. As in fruits, a catalogue of new varieties specially adapted for Florida is greatly needed.

And this leads us to say a few words on

FUTURE HORTICULTURAL PROSPECTS FOR FLORIDA.

To a professional Northern nurseryman or fruit grower the opportunities for business in this line in Florida are certainly very flattering if compared with the drawbacks he is accustomed to. It is a well-known fact, for instance, that the profits from the sale of a new variety of fruit or plant are greatly beyond those obtained from standard varieties, but the catalogue of apples, pears, peaches or strawberries is already too long, and there is little inducement at the North for costly experiment or hybridizing.

In Florida the case is wholly different. Take our matchless orange, for instance: how many nurserymen are there that, beyond half a dozen marked varieties, can tell at sight either the growth or fruit or how many nurseries there are in the State conducted on business principles, with blocks of trees well budded, rightly cultivated, and, above all, true to name? And then how limited is the number of varieties, and how great are the prizes for those skillful in fertilizing or mixing the pollen of one variety with that of another to introduce new varieties of unknown value. Again, compare the price of nursery orange trees with that of apple trees of the same age North. First-class two or three-year-old orange buds readily

bring \$50 per hundred, whereas three-year-old apple buds go begging for customers at \$10 per hundred.

Lemons, too, are even more limited as to variety, confined at best to five sorts suited to Florida soil and climate. What a field is here open for experiment! Open a Northern nurseryman's catalogue and turn to the list of pears—what a bewildering variety! What an inducement, then, to the enterprising fruit grower to introduce new ones! There are enough, and good enough, kinds already. In Florida we are limited to the Le Conte, truly a splendid parent, with vitality enough to impart its vigor to a long line of those that shall be hybridized from it, improving the flavor and extending the season. Here, too, the profits of propagation are greatly beyond those of the nurseryman who has to bud and wait long years' suffering, blight and other set-backs unknown in Florida.

In peaches, too, Florida is now limited to two, or at most three, suitable varieties. Futures are open to those with time, skill, and patience who will cross these with the finer Northern sorts. In strawberry culture we have but one or two sorts of medium quality against scores of first-class varieties grown by Jersey gardeners.

It will be seen that if Florida growers are to maintain the high prices for fruit which the climate naturally allows them, more attention must be given to improving the quality. It costs no more to grow a good orange, lemon, pear, peach or strawberry than a poor one, and the profits will be reaped by those with skill enough to originate and introduce them.

FLORIDA FLOWERS AND THEIR SEASONS.

TAKE the roses, to begin with. As a rule the varieties that a Northern florist has the greatest difficulty in forcing under glass thrive here in the open air regardless of soil mixtures,

temperature, or any of the formulæ necessary to artificial culture at the North. That rare variety, *Maréchal Niel*, for instance, grows rampant over the piazzas or galleries; is in full bloom in February, March and April, and its great yellow globes of buds form a conspicuous part of Easter decoration. January only is bare of roses, and the past winter not wholly then, for the China varieties, like *Louis Philippe* and *Agrippina*, show their red blossoms without intermission. *Safrano* and other tea-roses, after a rampant growth and February bloom, take a few days' rest and show their creamy buds intermittently from February to January. The hybrid perpetuals, as *General Jacqueminot*, *Washington* and *Peonia*, only give a February crop of their magnificent flowers.

Dear experience has taught us that roses should not be planted in Florida in the spring; rather set them in November or December, and they will become established or well rooted during the winter and stand the summer's heat, as they will not if planted in March. Just before the orange blossoms comes the wild yellow jessamine. Why this charming climber has not become popular as a hot-house plant North is a wonder. It thrives apparently under cultivation, as many a vine-covered piazza testifies. It is certainly one of the most attractive of wild flowers, and in February the Florida hammocks are fragrant with its bloom, the yellow bells hanging in graceful festoons from tree and shrub, which the vines adopt as a trellis. The middle of February brings forth the orange and lemon blossoms, "fit ornament for the bride." No fruit equals the citrus family in the delicate beauty and fragrance of their bloom. Like tuberose, without their heavy and to some repulsive odor, the trees, already laden with last year's crop of fruit and the fresh new foliage blending with the deeper green of the old, form with their delicate, snowy blossoms a spectacle which in mid-winter is apt to give the visitor from the frigid North the disease known as Florida or orange fever,

and many a grove has changed hands at extreme prices under these insidious influences. Later in March the self-sown phlox drummondi is ablaze in every yard where once planted, and verbenas attain vigor and abundance of bloom scarcely seen in Northern parks in July. Scattered through fine woods are also clumps of lantanas. In April and May the stately magnolia, queen of the Southern forest, contributes its great snowy blossoms. A more impressive spectacle than a towering magnolia tree in full bloom is scarcely seen. In each wayside bonnet-covered pool float hundreds of white pond lilies. Meanwhile, scattered through the woods are wild dandelion-like gazenias, and lily-like amaryllis spring up in the track of the forest fire. Easter lilies, king-lilies, and a score of the choicer bulbs yield their glory also in May.

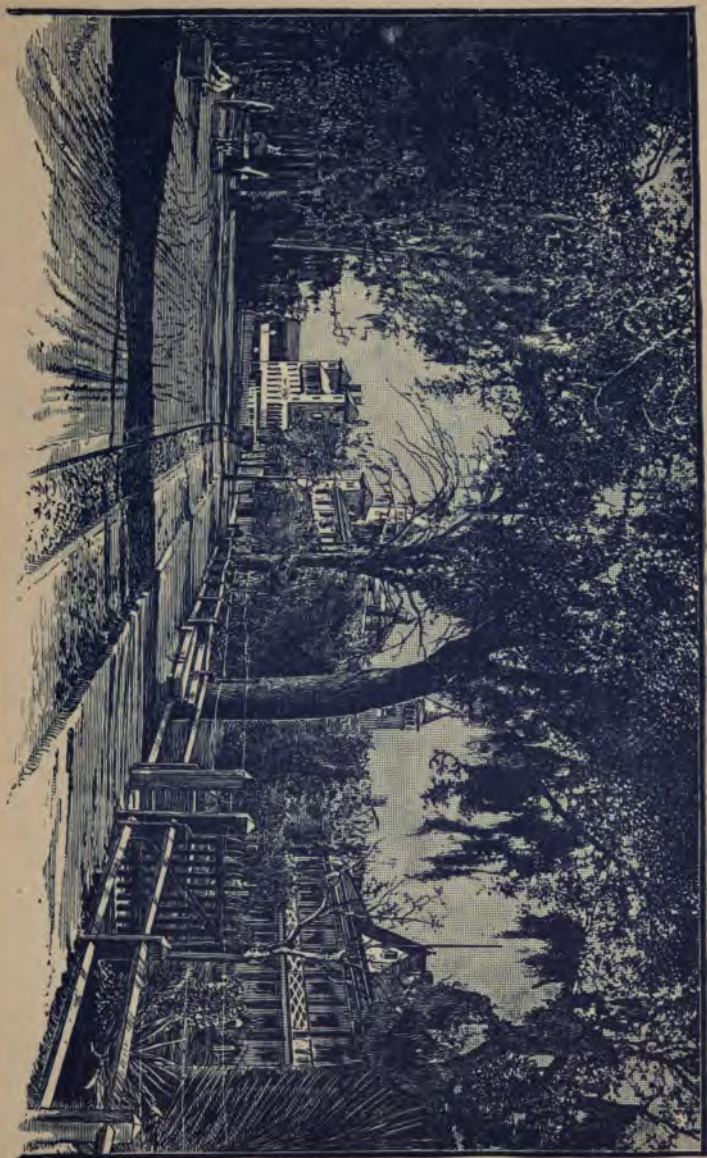
Few professional florists would recognize their delicate hot-house climber in the fragrant star-flowered jessamineodes that climb to the housetop and perfume the air for blocks. Solanum and trumpet climbers, too, contribute to charm the beholder.

While each summer month has its special flowery attractions, the fall, winter, and spring months are most conducive to Florida floriculture, and as a rule those kinds here thrive best outdoors that are most troublesome to grow at the North under glass.

FLORIDA TIMBER AND OTHER RESOURCES.

WHILE the yellow pine greatly predominates, yet there are larger quantities of cypress in Florida than in any other State. Live oak, too, grows to enormous size. Red cedar grows along the coasts, and is sought by leading pencil manufacturers, who have erected works at Cedar Keys to utilize the material. White oak, so much used for stave timber, is found in quantity.

A ST. AUGUSTINE AVENUE.





GREEN COVE SPRINGS.



COURT HOUSE, BARTOW.

South Pub. Co. N.Y.



AN ISLAND HOME.

1875. PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN PUBLISHING CO. N.Y.

Hickory is also abundant on mixed lands, and is already used in local wagon and helve factories. Various kinds of bay are found in quantity, and the beautiful magnolia provides the most ornamental wood for inside finish to houses, doors, paneling, etc.

FARM CROPS.—LONG STAPLE OR SEA-ISLAND COTTON is still one of the leading or staple crops with Florida growers, although its low price and increased cost of production, with free labor, scarce afford a bare living to the cultivator.

SOUTHERN WHITE CORN is planted in large quantities, yielding from ten to forty bushels per acre. Unlike Northern yellow corn, this variety is planted a single kernel in a place, and each stalk produces an enormous ear.

UPLAND RICE grows easily on pine land, and will be found fairly profitable.

THE SWEET POTATO is almost a universal crop, easily propagated by root, sprout or vine. It is easily cultivated and enormously productive, forming often the principal article of diet to negro and white laborers. With plenty of "taters" and "poak," hominy or grits, the average darky sees little beside to be desired, outside the water "mellion" season.

TOBACCO is fast becoming a staple crop in Columbia County, and Hernando and Hillsboro county farmers are learning to increase their incomes from this source.

SUGAR-CANE nowhere grows more luxuriantly than in South Florida, and were it not for the extremely low prices of sugar caused by the competition of beet sugar, its culture would soon be a leading industry. As it is, nearly every "Cracker" has his cane patch, and the "sugar mill" is one of the necessities of a neighborhood. The newly-drained Disston lands are of the best possible quality for sugar raising.

CRAB GRASS is a native that spreads over nearly every neglected "old field," and when cut and cured at the proper season makes excellent hay for stock, and does away with the

necessity of purchasing baled hay from the North, which impoverishes so many settlers.

ALFALFA is not always a success, and its culture is yet to be understood.

MILLO MAIZE is one of the best and most profitable fodder crops.

PINDERS or PEANUTS are raised in large quantities, contributing to the income of many.

FLORIDA LUMBER INTERESTS.

WE give below a statistical table showing timber (mostly yellow pine) shipments from Pensacola alone for the years ending October 31, 1881, and October 31, 1882, respectively :

FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 1881.

DESTINATION.	Vessels.	Tonnage.	Hewed timber, cubic feet.	Sawed timber, cubic feet.	Lumber, lineal feet.
Gt. Britain.	246	195,920	3,669,703	5,773,185	15,109,000
Continent of Europe	97	55,336	878,844	756,888	17,078,000
Africa and Australia.	6	4,592	5,565	193,595	395,000
W. Indies, S. America, etc....	134	33,083	39,908	19,342	21,663,000
Coastwise..	130	50,251	29,366		34,073,000
Total...	564	339,182	4,623,386	6,743,010	88,318,000

FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 1882.

DESTINATION.	Ves- sels.	Tonnage.	Hewed timber, cubic feet.	Sawed timber, cubic feet.	Lumber, lineal feet.
Gt. Britain.	263	215,477	3,191,417	6,914,573	13,996,000
Continent .					
of Europe	134	80,250	1,248,418	1,647,931	17,305,000
Africa and					
Australia.	6	3,335	24,782	23,509	1,595,000
W. Indies,					
S. Ameri-					
ca, etc....	134	55,158	57,919	129,585	35,112,000
Coastwise..	125	55,716	81,042		37,943,000
Total....	662	409,936	4,603,578	8,715,598	105,951,000

Beside Pensacola, Fernandina and Jacksonville are large lumber-shipping ports.

FLORIDA AS A WINTER RESORT—PLACES OF INTEREST.

THERE is more sense in going South to escape the cold in winter than in flying to the seashore or to the country in summer to keep cool. The latter result is less likely to be attained than the former. A large share of people dread the cold, and the season of frost and snow to them means downright suffering. Asthma, catarrh, bronchitis, colds, lung fevers or consumption are but a part of the list of diseases resulting from this cause, and it is no wonder that well-to-do people with these real or threatened ailments, after receiving benefit from a sojourn in Florida one season, are anxious to return thither

with the birds at the advent of the reign of Jack Frost. But it is no longer the invalids who have the monopoly in the migration southward. It has become the fashion for people who can afford it to either own a cottage in an orange grove, or engage rooms at a hotel in our wonderful climate.

Whether the tourist comes by sea or land, he is sure to bring up in the metropolis of the State, JACKSONVILLE, sooner or later. This city has been called the Saratoga of the South, and its hotels and other attractions are on a grand scale. With St. Augustine and Palatka, until recently it nearly monopolized the tourist business. As many as twenty thousand strangers have been entertained in Jacksonville at one time without inconvenience, as, aside from the mammoth hotels, boarding-houses by the score are ready to open their doors to the seeker for health or pleasure. With paved streets, paid fire department, good sewerage, board of trade, and three daily newspapers, the city has a metropolitan look to a Northern merchant; and those who are homesick away from the bustle of business find it difficult to enjoy themselves in the State outside of Jacksonville. From the new court-house tower a comprehensive view is obtained of the whole city. The two streets, Bay and Forsyth, nearest and parallel to the St. John's River are built almost entirely with handsome brick warehouses, mostly new, and there is the rush and roar on Bay Street inseparable from a town wherein most of the business is done by Northern men.

The Everett Hotel, accommodating 600 guests, is at one end of the Bay Street pavement, and the Carleton at the other, or eastern. Around the city park, three squares back, are the St. James and Windsor. The Tremont, Duval, Oxford, and a dozen other hotels occupy prominent locations. Transient rates at first-class hotels are about \$4 per day; \$2 to \$3 at others. Boarding-houses charge \$5 to \$10 per week.

As the main attraction is outdoor air, wide piazzas are the



TAMPA HARBOR AND BAY.

Scam T. & Co. N.Y.

rule, and exquisite orchestral music of an afternoon or evening at the Windsor and St. James charms the guests, who in light summer suits seek the shade of the verandas in February, and read in New York's yesterday's papers of blizzards and snow blockades in the land they left behind them.

Sitting on piazzas in mid-winter, however, becomes monotonous, and the tourist looks about for entertainment. The St. John's River, flowing grandly by, invites lovers of boating or fishing, and many a happy hour may be passed floating upon its tranquil surface, which is unfettered by ice or seldom vexed by storm. The tropical sunsets witnessed from the St. John's will not soon be forgotten, nor the delight that accompanies the novel sensation of rowing on water in January with the air as soft and as warm as in June. Who in Florida has forgotten his sensation on pulling in the first catfish, or the disgust with which it was flung back on learning it was "no good"? The gamey black bass or trout, when hooked, is another matter, and in landing one there is a good supper in view. Black Creek, a tributary of the St. John's, is the direction in which to row for duck shooting. Arlington is the place for a picnic. Ladies and children will here find choice festoons of the gray moss that droops from the trees, magnolia and palmetto leaves to decorate their rooms, while, if they ask permission, they may wander through the adjacent orange groves.

A swift little steamer makes a daily trip to MAYPORT, at the mouth of the St. John's, twenty-five miles and return, and the tourist, if so inclined, may pass happy hours or days on St. George's Island, where are good hotel accommodations, and attractions without number.

PABLO BEACH, but sixteen miles away, is reached by a narrow-gauge railroad, with frequent trains. Here is one of the finest ocean beaches in the world, 600 or more feet wide at low tide, and so hard that a horse's hoof or a wagon tire hardly leaves a mark—an ideal bicycle track, without an obstruction

for twenty miles or more. This has been the home for years of General F. E. Spinner, ex-Treasurer of the United States, who declares he is prolonging his years by inhaling the life-giving air. Here, too, is Murray Hall, costing \$170,000 and elegantly furnished--the finest hotel on the Atlantic coast, not excepting any at Long Branch, Asbury Park, Ocean Grove, or Cape May.

Over 100 cottages dot the bluffs about here, belonging to Floridians who take their summer outing without leaving the State, declaring they thus find cooler air and better advantages than by going to Northern resorts.

FERNANDINA is but thirty-three miles north of Jacksonville. It is a town replete with historical interest. Very superior accommodations may here be secured at the Egmont, and short trips may be made to surrounding attractions.

Cumberland Island, where General Greene, of Revolutionary fame, lived, died, and lies buried, as well as "Light Horse" Harry Lee, grandfather of General Robert E. Lee, is but eight miles distant. Upon the site of the old homestead known as Dungeness is now built a palace, the winter home of Mrs. Thomas Carnegie, widow of the Pittsburgh, Pa., iron millionaire. The walks, drives, beech trees and flowers of this romantic island are fascinating, and the visitor is sure to carry away with him a longing to return. Two miles from the Egmont is the famous Amelia Beach, also a summer resort, with hotel and cottages, and the same wide, hard, smooth beach as that at Pablo.

Fernandina has many beautiful homes, and, thanks to its deep water harbor, has a considerable shipping trade. It is the Florida terminus of the Mallory line of steamships, and is a great lumber-shipping port.

Thirty-four miles south of Jacksonville, over a narrow-gauge railroad, lies ST. AUGUSTINE, well remembered as the oldest city in the Union. It has long been a noted winter resort, and now,

through the enterprise of H. M. Flagler, Secretary of the Standard Oil Company (who is erecting the Ponce de Leon Palace Hotel, at a cost of over \$2,000,000), it will receive a still greater throng of tourists. This wonderful building conforms to the Spanish characteristics of the city, being built around an inclosure. The walls are solid coquina, and will last for ages. The dome and staircase alone cost more than most hotels, and there are a thousand unique attractions to entertain and puzzle the guest. The Alcazar, opposite, opens earlier, provides rooms at less price, and bathing, bowling, billiards, etc., as well as forty shops or stores—a regular bazar.

Strolling through the narrow streets of the city, the traveler finds it hard to realize that he is in Uncle Sam's domain. Streets so narrow the whiffletrees of a double team scrape along the walls at each side, while the ancient coquina walls of the stores and houses, with the luxuriant tropical vegetation in the gardens, have an entirely foreign aspect.

The great fire of the spring of 1887 consumed the oldest cathedral in the United States, and the historical slave market, as well as an ancient hotel or two, which will doubtless be replaced soon by modern structures. The Apache chief Geronimo's warriors and their families, to the number of 450, occupied old Fort Marion the past year, but have lately been taken to a reservation, where they will be less in the public eye.

The sea wall affords a hard promenade along the interesting harbor, across which is a grand lighthouse, and the ever-thundering surf breaking along the magnificent beach. Tourists go into ecstasies over St. Augustine's attractions, and many are so fascinated as to build and make their winter homes amid its delights.

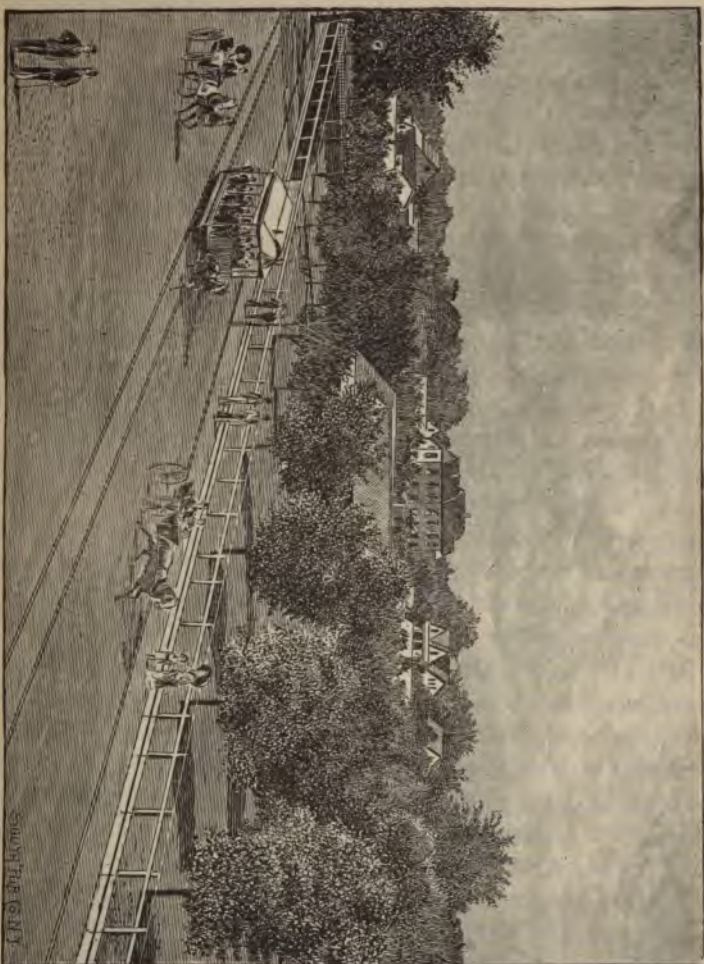
ORANGE PARK is situated on an elevated oak-shaded and moss-draped bluff, fifteen miles up the St. John's River from Jacksonville, and almost in sight of it. By railroad, the more direct route, it is reached in twenty minutes. Here are many

tasteful and even elegant winter homes of Northern people of wealth and refinement, forming an ideal society.

Directly across the river, which is here five miles wide, is the attractive village of Mandarin, and with a glass you can see the oak-shaded cottage where Mrs. H. B. Stowe penned the "Palmetto Leaves" articles, that were the means of causing many to establish winter homes in sunny Florida. A short distance back of the river at Mandarin are large orange groves in full bearing, while the Jacksonville market is largely supplied with vegetables and small fruits by truck gardeners living here.

MAGNOLIA and GREEN COVE SPRINGS are, by river, 29 and 30 miles south of Jacksonville, but as the railroad does not follow the winding channel of the lagoon-like river, the distance is materially shortened. The former place consists of a grand winter hotel and adjoining cottages. A tramcar meets all boats and trains conveying guests to the splendid caravansary. The scene on a mild day in January from the deck of an approaching steamer, when a band of music occupies the pavilion on the dock, and the hotel piazzas are gay with the light colors of fashionably-dressed guests, reminds one of a Catskill landing on the Hudson during the height of a summer trade.

A marvelous walk, or "lover's path," leads for a mile along the river bank from Magnolia to Green Cove Springs under live oak, palmetto and magnolia trees, festooned with gray Spanish moss. No attempt has been made to "clear up" the native wildness of the woods, which are grand as Nature planted them, but rustic seats at frequent intervals provide rest and invite meditation while facing the placid St. John's and its floating craft. Approaching Green Cove, a massive fence of pine logs bars the way, while a novel gateway has the inscription, "Marion Borden's Park. Please enjoy, but don't destroy." Entering through a turnstile, constructed of a pine stump with roots still on it, so hung as to open by a gentle pressure and close itself, you find yourself in an inclosure that



FOOT MEADE.

meets your ideal of tropical Florida. Beneath the aged moss-draped trees are massive chairs formed of logs, balanced so nicely on rockers that the slightest motion of the body causes them to gently swing to and fro, while other seats ingeniously chopped out of monstrous pine logs afford majestic views of the grand river at a point where the St. John's is unobstructed for many miles. This park is owned and thrown open by John G. Borden, son of Gail Borden, whose brand of condensed milk is found on nearly every Southern table, and whose attractive winter residence is near by.

From here the "walk" leads past handsome villas, a gothic church and fine hotels, into GREEN COVE village or "city," whose business houses and principal hotel surround a square or park. In the midst of it is the marvelous spring which draws crowds of rheumatic or infirm persons, who find its sulphurous water highly beneficial. The water is perfectly transparent, and bubbles forth from the bowels of the earth, forming a stream that would run a mill, emptying into the St. John's after supplying the adjacent baths. Horse-cars pass the hotels and lead from the docks to the railroad stations in the rear, passing many pretty flower-adorned homes.

Between Green Cove and Palatka, (75 miles by river from Jacksonville, 56 by rail) there are no resort hotels. PALATKA is the largest city on the St. John's above Jacksonville, the terminus of the Florida Southern Railway, and a rival of the metropolis as a wholesale market and shipping point. It is the head of navigation for sea-going vessels. Though devastated by fire about three years since, it has been rebuilt with handsome brick structures, and its fine hotel, occupying a full square, is one of the largest and best in the State. Palatka abounds in places of interest for the tourist. A ferry to "Hart's Grove" on the opposite river-bank gives the opportunity to all to wander at will through one of the most famous groves in the State, pull the fruit from the trees, and buy boxes for

Shipping to Northern friends. The "hammock drive" along the river bank, with its rustic seats and shade, is appreciated by travelers, and in some of the private grounds and gardens hereabouts one can obtain a fair idea of what Florida soil is capable of in midwinter.

Palatka Heights, a half mile back from the river, are becoming fairly covered with handsome houses of residents, and the intervening space is fast being filled with the more humble cottages of railroad and other laborers. The main shops of the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway are located here.

A steam ferry from Palatka carries the traveler three miles up the river to Rolleston, the present terminus of the White Railroad, the newly-constructed route, 45 miles to DAYTONA on the Atlantic coast. The inhabitants of the latter lovely resort are a unit in declaring they have the most beautiful spot in Florida, and the fact that nearly 1,500 souls located there when 40 miles of staging was necessary to reach it, through a flat, wet country, speaks volumes in its favor. Forty thousand boxes of bright, thin-skinned oranges were shipped north from this point the past season, though it is the first year that railroad transportation has been provided.

DAYTONA, ORMOND and NEW SMYRNA are situated on a broad navigable lagoon known as the Halifax River, which is separated from the ocean only by a narrow strip of sand, crossing which one finds the same marvelous hard, broad beach as at Pablo, but nearly a hundred miles further south. Opposite Daytona are several really elegant houses, winter homes of wealthy Northern manufacturers, who, when the snow comes, seek their haven of refuge from wintry blasts, and boat, bathe, and raise wonderful vegetables as though frost were never known, as it rarely is, at this point. Each of these winter residents owns either a steam or a sail yacht, and has a walk leading 1,000 feet across the sand dunes in the rear to bath-

houses facing the roaring Atlantic. On their shaded piazzas there is a full view of Daytona across the rippling river.

On the Daytona, or main-land side, is a hard shell road, bordered by cozy homes, stores, hotels, a seminary, and a pleasant sanitarium. A block back, a wide drive leads in a straight line through tropical palmetto groves for many miles north and south, while the rich marl hammock lands adjacent are studded with thrifty orange groves. Another railroad reaches NEW SMYRNA, a short distance up the Halifax River (up always means south, in Florida), where a train may be taken over a new country, and it may be well to stop off at the charming new town of LAKE HELEN, where is a first-class hotel, affording repose that will be very grateful to the traveler by this time.

Some fifty handsome new houses have been erected at Lake Helen within three years, and it may truthfully be said no cheap, "shanty" structures are to be found there, but the homes of wealthy, refined people, of luxurious tastes, who find their ideal Florida on the shore of a fairy lake, amid a small but congenial society. The strawberries and garden truck raised at Lake Helen, as well as the roses and other flowers, are a marvel. The country about is rolling, and the native pine trees are nowhere taller or straighter.

But five miles away, a pleasant drive over rolling, pine-covered hills, is the larger, almost phenomenal town of DE LAND, perhaps the most widely advertised of Florida cities, and a model in many respects. This, like Lake Helen, De Land's younger sister, was founded by a public-spirited, wealthy manufacturer, H. A. De Land, of Fairport, N. Y., after weeks of rest on its present site in the solitary log-house of the first settler, ten years ago. Perhaps nowhere in Florida to-day are there as many acres of thrifty pine-land orange groves of equal age, and the student of Florida's resources will do well to spend weeks in a De Land hotel or private boarding-house, rambling

Over the adjacent hills and interviewing the always sociable fruit growers. If diligent, he will also learn that much can be grown successfully on pine land beside oranges.

A well-appointed college, with eminent Northern professors, is also established here, largely by the munificence of Mr. De Land and J. B. Stetson, of Philadelphia. So parents with children to educate may find in Florida a school equal in every respect to those they prize at home. De Land is easily reached by railroad direct from Jacksonville in four and a half hours, a short branch of three miles connecting the place with the main line at De Land Junction.

There are three first-class hotels here, so the tourist has no "Hobson's choice," and as a resort for health among the pines and away from swamps, De Land is not excelled in the State.

ORANGE CITY is an attractive town of 1,000 souls, six miles south of De Land, and on the Blue Spring, Orange City and Atlantic Railroad. Its inhabitants are a unit in declaring they have the most "beautiful spot," etc., and the region here, thickly studded with thrifty orange groves, on rolling, high land, is certainly very attractive.

ENTERPRISE, a few miles further south, fronts the rippling waters of Lake Monroe. Here, too, is a grand hotel, with sulphur springs, and bathing, boating, and hunting attractions. It is an important landing for river steamers. Across the lake may be seen the important town of Sanford, terminus of two great railroad lines as well as the final landing of Jacksonville steamers, as from here on smaller craft must be taken.

SANFORD is 200 miles from Jacksonville by the tortuous river route, but only 125 miles by rail. Passengers for Tampa or Havana are here transferred, or the cars shifted from the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway to the South Florida Railway, though the fast mail trains run through without change. The visitor's impression of Sanford is always pleasing. An air of Northern energy pervades it, and is shown



A HOME ON LAKE WEIR.



INDIAN RIVER SCENES.



INDIAN RIVER CANAL.

in spacious, well-kept stores, comfortable houses, and well-cleaned streets.

The Holley system of water-works provides for family wants and protection from fire; and the streets, hotels and houses are lighted by gas. A great resort hotel commands a splendid view of the lake, and has the further attraction of a spacious tropical flower garden, with walks and lawn. But two miles away, at Fort Reid, is the famous Speer orange grove, known as the most productive of its size in the State, while Belair and other great groves near by are all worth visiting.*

The INDIAN RIVER is now reached by a branch of the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway from Enterprise to Titusville, in place of the odd, clumsy little steamers that used to ply on the upper St. John's into Lake Poinsette, but which now find only a limited tourist trade. TITUSVILLE, the railroad terminus, is having quite a real-estate "boom," but the real resort is at ROCKLEDGE, further south, which is reached by a steamer connecting with the train. Many return from a sojourn here saying adjectives fail to describe the attractions of Indian River. But the description of the Halifax region in many respects will answer for this much-lauded resort. The river or lagoon is broader, and the island (Merritt's) separating it from the ocean, is wider and more productive. Ledges of soft coquina-like rock (hence Rockledge) along the river are a wonder to the tourist, who may have traveled thus far in the State without seeing a native stone. The fame of Indian River oranges is already world wide, but only at the home, when pulled fresh from the trees, can their full value be appreciated.

Pineapples, too, are raised in this vicinity in large quantities, and the small islands or keys still further south are being extensively planted with cocoanuts.

* The bane of new Florida towns—fire—has devastated Sanford since writing the above. More substantial brick structures, however, are already arising from the ruins, and she will soon be far more beautiful than before.—AUTHOR.

Returning to Sanford, and taking the main line of the South Florida Railroad, we soon leave the St. John's Valley, and for twenty miles the route lies through the most highly cultivated portion of the famous Orange County.

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS is the first station on the "resort" plan. A horse-car at the station takes you through a broad avenue to an attractive hotel near the banks of the Spring. There is a restful air about this hostelry, with its wide piazzas and many comforts, and many Bostonians form a congenial society here each recurring winter.

Orange County claims more than 800 distinct lakes. Many of these, of course, are little more than pools, but most are clear as crystal, and a "lake front" is desired above all else as a building site. From Altamonte on the traveler is hardly out of sight of lakes for many miles, while orange groves are so numerous as to become monotonous.

WINTER PARK has an aristocratic look, with its villas, avenues, college and church buildings. Here another horse-railway leads to a surprisingly handsome hotel of 250 rooms, beautifully situated between two lakes of pellucid water. Adjoining, on a commanding site, are the fine new buildings of Rollins Congregational College, endowed by wealthy Northerners.

On the piazza of the Seminole Hotel can be counted probably more millionaires at any one time during the "season" than at any Florida resort south of Jacksonville. Ere these lines are read, doubtless a street-car line will be completed to ORLANDO, but four miles away, the county seat and decidedly the most wide-awake and enterprising of South Florida towns. Composed mostly of Northern men of push and energy, it is amazing what has been accomplished within eight years since it started. It is hard to realize that where the street-cars rumble, or lofty brick warehouses stand, the country was wild woods five years ago.

Within easy walk of the court-house are several beautiful lakes, bordered by pretty homes. On the shores of one are the grounds of the South Florida Exposition, which was opened in February, the flowers and fruits being then in their prime. The beach of the lake was used as a race-course, being admirable for the purpose.

The real-estate boom that accompanies Orlando's growth is perhaps the most marvelous in the history of the State's progress, and is often quoted by agents to try to create a fever in newer towns. The Orlando market has quite a metropolitan look, and the view from its tower is worth climbing to see. The hotels are always crowded during the winter months. Money-lenders find at Orlando the best security for loans at high rates of interest.

Orlando was the terminus of the railroad for several years, and the route from here on is less developed and has a newer look. A few miles further on are seen the shining waters of Lake Conway, the first of the long chain of lakes emptying into the Kissimmee River and the Everglades. At KISSIMMEE CITY, pronounced *Kis-sim-ee*, the traveler is astonished to look upon a real first-class hotel, in front of which the train stops for meals. Its piazzas command a splendid lake view of fifteen miles. The town surrounding has already a population of 1,500, and is growing perhaps more rapidly than others, being the basis of supplies for the great Disston drainage schemes, and the head of navigation for steamboats from the Gulf, via Okeechobee.

The tourist with a mind for startling facts may here learn at first hands of the marvelous enterprise that has purchased 4,000,000 acres, and proposes, in addition, to drain other millions now covered with water, and turn them into sugar farms and truck gardens.

That this plan is feasible is proven during a ten-mile drive from the station, when hundreds of acres are crossed bare of



DUNN'S PARK, OCALA.

trees, rich as a prairie, and as hard, over which steamers could be floated three years ago. Over a million of acres has thus been reclaimed, the process being to cut deep, wide canals from one lake into another, lowering the first perhaps eight feet, thus permanently draining a vast tract of country which is rapidly being taken up by settlers and planted. Kissimmee itself would be wet but for this. These vast operations have been retarded of late by legislative interference, but the work promises in the end to be as successful as gigantic.

From Kissimmee on, the railroad has been completed less than three years, and the country is new. Several marvelous towns, however, have sprung up in this time, the largest, **LAKE LAND**, being, as the name indicates, in the midst of the famous lake region of Polk County. Here an amazing number of neat buildings greet one, and very pleasant hotels give the traveler home comforts.

PLANT CITY, further on, has a metropolitan air for a new town. You are now approaching Tampa, on the Gulf, first passing through Ybor City, where a colony of Cubans have settled and large quantities of cigars are manufactured.

TAMPA at this writing is suffering from a calamity to which all "booming" Florida towns are liable—a disastrous fire having swept away 35 of the stores and dwellings. This, however, so far from discouraging the citizens, has stimulated them to rebuild with substantial brick structures, and Tampa will soon be more beautiful than ever. Yellow fever, too, has blighted for a time its growth, the cool weather now happily ending all danger. The location of the city is admirable, being upon a beautiful bay or spacious harbor, on a site somewhat similar to Manhattan Island. There are several spacious hotels, and the "reservation" (corresponding to the Battery in New York) may well be called the most beautiful place the tourist has yet seen.

Tampa has miles of good sidewalks and street railroads. It

has banks and a fair wholesale trade. It is a port of entry and railroad and steamship terminus. Direct connection is here made with steamers for Key West and Havana. Through Pullman sleepers run from New York to Tampa, without change, in forty-four hours.

KEY WEST seems hardly to belong to Florida, or even to the United States, being on an island or key many miles from the mainland. Though twice devastated within twelve months—first by a disastrous fire, then by yellow fever—and its progress thus seriously checked, the pluck and enterprise of the citizens are great enough to overcome these drawbacks, and Key West will continue to be one of the largest cities of Florida.

Now, with a new map of Florida, will the reader look for PUNTA GORDA, on Charlotte Harbor, south of Tampa Bay, the new terminus of the Florida Southern Railway, which runs through trains here from Palatka? Improvements on a grand scale are being carried on by the railroad company with an eye toward making Punta Gorda or Trabue a rival of Tampa. Already a fine resort hotel has been constructed, facing the harbor, capable of accommodating 500 guests, and the boating, hunting, and fishing about here are the very best. Fort Myers, on the Manatee River—the inventor Edison's winter home—is easily reached from this point; also Sarasota.

ST. JAMES CITY, on Pine Island, down the harbor, has a very attractive hotel, to which steamers run from the Florida Southern Railway docks.

The ride from Charlotte Harbor to Jacksonville is through an entirely different country from that already crossed, and the tourist will see many phases of life entirely new. For many miles northwest, however, the route is quite uninteresting, being mostly flat woods dotted with half-wild cattle, destined for the Cuban market. Brand new towns have sprung up at favorable points. Some, as Fort Ogden, Arcadia, and

Wauchulla, have an air of business and stability belonging to older settlements. **FORT MEADE** is, however, a remarkable town, when one considers that until recently all its supplies have been hauled sixty miles from Tampa. It has been for many years a center for cattle men, some of considerable wealth; and their comfortable homes and appointments, built long ago, are the more surprising. Twenty thousand boxes of oranges were shipped from this station the past year, showing the faith of those who planted the groves years in advance of the iron horse's advent, that means so much to backwoodsmen.

Two good hotels are located here, and a well-equipped horse railroad connects the town with the depot, two miles away. The soil about Fort Meade is a remarkably rich quality of pine, almost as rich as hammock, and fine harvests of corn and other cereals are annually produced without fertilizers.

A wagon bridge leads across Peace River at this point, through a remarkably beautiful and fertile country beyond, until the backbone ridge is reached—a land of hills and clear-water lakes, now attracting many settlers.

Twelve miles north of Fort Meade is **BARTOW**, the county-seat of Polk County, and largest town. Its growth, in fact, has been phenomenal, and it is destined to be a large and important point. Two railroads already center here, and there is no lack of enterprise and thrift, as shown in the many handsome storehouses and public buildings. There are three or four hotels in the place, and the country about abounds in pleasant drives over hard roads—not the least of its attractions.

Here, too, the soil is surprisingly rich, for pine land, and orange groves passed through the great freeze ordeal without even shedding their leaves. A branch railroad runs from Bartow, seventeen miles, to Bartow Junction, connecting with the main line of the South Florida Railroad, passing through a beautiful lake region.

WINTER HAVEN is charmingly situated on a beautiful stretch



SILVER SPRINGS AND HOTEL.

of clean, open, pine land, between and overlooking large, clear-water lakes. Here a Presbyterian college is about to be established, and no doubt this will be a handsome town. There is a healthy nucleus already, including several stores.

BARTOW JUNCTION is an ideal location for a model Florida town or sanitarium, having the advantage of two railroads, where all express trains even must stop, although nothing has been done as yet toward making a large settlement. The land about here is exceptionally hilly, overlooking charming, clear-water lakes, whose shores will no doubt soon be dotted by villas of wealthy Northerners. A company of capitalists own a large tract here, and are about to systematically develop it.

From Bartow leading northwest run the cars of the Southern Railway to Palatka, via Lakeland, where the track of the South Florida Railroad is crossed. Soon after the rolling hills of Hernando County are encountered. Dade City, with its fertile fields and groves, is passed, and at Pemberton Ferry the dark, swift waters of the Withlacoochee are crossed, and it is well to take a waiting train here for a ten-mile ride to BROOKSVILLE, the Hernando County seat. Here the hard clay roads and long hill sloping up to the town from the station remind us of Western New York, and at the summit a wide view is obtained over the surrounding country. Brooksville is about 300 feet above the Gulf, and on the edge of a wonderfully fertile belt of hammock land, whose productions in fruit and vegetables alone would when developed, it is estimated, give a railroad a profitable business.

A large amount of business is done at the stores here, and the churches, hotels and newspapers tell of a refined and enterprising community. Other railroads are pointed toward Brooksville, and it is destined to be one of the largest of South Florida cities.

Returning to Pemberton Ferry, and proceeding northward

the railroad passes through a flat, swampy country with dots of higher and fertile soil, the Centre Hill region being exceptionally rich. Soon the glimmer of sunshine on noble LAKE HARRIS is noticed in the distance. Astatula, or Lake of the Sunbeams, the Indians appropriately named it; and it is one of the largest in the noble inland cluster, being fifteen miles long and from five to eight miles broad. It is nearly encircled by railroads, and on its sloping shores are some of the most thrifty settlements, notably YALAHUA, BLOOMFIELD, and LANE PARK; also large orange groves. Slowly the train backs into LEESBURG, one of the older and most important towns, superbly situated on a ridge between Lakes Harris and Griffin, and an important railroad center.

Great tracts of wild budded orange groves surrounding have made many of the residents wealthy; but withal there is an air of sleepy indifference shown by the natives in marked contrast to the public spirit shown in smaller but more enterprising towns.

There are four hotels here, many stores, and some fine houses.

The main street is coated with clay, and what *was* a thoroughfare deep in sand is now equal to a macadamized road.

FRUITLAND PARK is an ideal country among numerous lakes with elevated shores. Here is one of the most flourishing colonies of Englishmen, as well as farms and orchards, from which came many of the fruits that took premiums at the New Orleans Exposition. To learn the full capability of pine land, one should visit the estate of Major O. P. Rooks, where are over one hundred varieties of tropical and semi-tropical trees and plants in vigorous growth.

This beautiful rolling country continues for many miles. LADY LAKE STATION, with its hotel and neat white houses, comes next, and then CONANT, with a more elaborate hostelry bidding for the tourist trade as well as for settlers to occupy



STATE HOUSE, TALLAHASSEE.

the surrounding rolling lands, already dotted with young groves. Three miles further, and LAKE WEIR is in sight ; and exclamations of " How lovely ! " " Beautiful ! " " Charming ! " etc., are in order.

Residents claim this to be the most beautiful of Florida lakes, and the statement stands unchallenged. The railroad follows its white beach for six miles, affording views of pretty groves and homes occupied by wealthy Northerners. It is hard to put into cold print just what are the peculiar charms of this lake ; yet all who have seen, acknowledge them, while dwellers rave over them. A tasteful, cozy hotel occupies a commanding position on the southern shore ; another on the eastern. The Lake Weir Chautauqua Tabernacle, where the Rev. Sam. Jones drew his crowds, is on the northwestern bank, and it is probable that other larger and finer structures will soon be erected. A picturesque island is planted almost entirely with lemon trees. Some of the residents on the south shore boast over 200 varieties of flowers blooming in February, and marvelous stories are told of the rise in value of real estate along the most elevated lake fronts.

Leaving the shining waters, the train passes the new village of CANDLER, stops twenty minutes for dinner at WELSHTON, and ten miles further enters the important city of Ocala, the capital of Marion County.

The solid brick business blocks, two banks, and two-hundred roomed first-class brick hotel about the Court-House Square suggest wealth and prosperity, which upon investigation will be found has been largely realized from raising oranges for market.

It is claimed that one-half the orange crop of the State is produced within twenty-four miles surrounding OCALA, which includes, of course, the great groves of Orange Lake, twenty miles north. Orange Avenue, a superb road leading south, is bordered for three miles on either side by continuous orange groves. The soil is very fertile hammock, and hundreds of

acres are cultivated with vegetables for Northern markets. Delightful drives may be here enjoyed over hard roads, the elevation known as "Fort King" affording an extensive view. That much-advertised and rapidly growing new town, SILVER SPRING PARK, is the first station north of Ocala, where thousands of lots have been sold to people living in every section of the Union, many of whom have been led to make this spot their chosen residence. Already over one hundred houses dot the landscape, and a very pretty church, school, and hotel buildings are near the depot. Two miles east by a spur on the railroad SILVER SPRING is reached. This is one of the chief winter resorts of Florida, and demands recognition at this point.

An excellent hotel greets the tourist on approaching the Spring, and its bountiful table places him in a fit frame of mind to enjoy the great natural wonder close by.

Imagine, if you can, a rapid stream of navigable water, fifty to one hundred feet wide, and fifteen to thirty feet deep, pouring forth out of the bowels of the earth from a cavern fifty feet below the surface, the water as it swells to the surface being so wonderfully clear that a coin might be seen plainly at the bottom, sixty, and in places even ninety feet below, while fishes, turtles, and perhaps an alligator or two, float in plain sight, all unconscious of observation, in the depths between. From a rowboat one may gaze for hours into this natural aquarium, witnessing, besides the animal life, the most wonderful of aquatic plants waving in the current, all the colors of the rainbow tipping each bright-colored object in the water until one fancies he is suspended in mid-air looking upon an unreal world far below.

Silver Spring is the terminus of the famous Oclawaha River excursions; a "run" or branch of ten miles connecting the Spring with the main river.

The comfortable steamer at the wharf invites one to take a

passage that, if followed, will be always remembered among the grand experiences of life. The distance from the Spring to Palatka is less than fifty miles, but so crooked is the winding river that 135 miles are covered by the steamer to this point. For ten miles the water is of the same transparent nature, untarnished by earth's drainage as it bears the steamer rapidly along, losing its purity, however, on meeting the turbid water of the Oclawaha at the junction. From here on, the banks are mostly low and swampy, the water sometimes spreading for miles through moss-draped cypress woods, the channel narrowing so as to hardly permit the steamer to pass between trees on either side, whose branches often sweep the deck, causing a stampede at the warning cry of "Look out!" from the watchful captain. So crooked is the course of the river that it is often impossible to turn the boat as sharply as is requisite, and plumb against the shore goes the bow, to be pushed off by merry, shouting deck-hands. Nowhere in Florida will the tourist meet more alligators, and a trip on a sunny day is never made without sighting a dozen or a score of these scaly monsters in all their ugliness. They are, however, suspicious that the snorting boats mean them harm, and are usually observed in the act of rolling off a log as you approach, or you discover only a tip of the nose and eyeballs above water as they noiselessly glide away. Occasionally, however, one will be descried fast asleep on the bank, unmindful of the shouts of those on board. Shots are not allowed, it being decided to keep the saurians on this river for the entertainment of tourists, who feel defrauded unless permitted to see these much-advertised attractions.

Birds of beautiful plumage—cranes, flamingoes, water turkeys, and limkins—may also be seen, and attached to stately trees are the air plants with their brilliant flowers—a species of orchid so valued by Northern florists.

But it is only at night that the full grandeur of the Oclawaha is appreciated, for then, a fire of fat pine knots is kindled on



the pilot-house, which lights the moss-draped woods and gives an unearthly effect to the scenery. To add to the awe-inspiring scene, the birds mentioned, startled by the glare from their roosts, fly off uttering piercing cries, like savages on the war-path; the whole effect being exciting, inspiring dreams of similar character on retiring to the state-room.

By midnight the steamer is tied up to its dock at Palatka, and you are free to go to a hotel or slumber in your state-room as you choose.

The 75 miles by rail from Ocala, missed by taking the Ocala steamer, are also full of interest.

Twenty miles north of Ocala, threading the south shore of Orange Lake, with its great groves and vegetable farms, passing through hammock lands fragrant with jasmine and other flowers, then turning suddenly eastward and crossing the track of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company at Hawthorne, passing numerous pretty young towns and clear-water lakes, we reach Keauka, which shows enterprising settlers and a beautiful rolling country, and Interlachen, with many homes of wealth, a handsome hotel, and rare lake scenery, appreciated largely by Boston residents, who have named the streets of the incipient city after famous thoroughfares at the "Hub."

* * * * *

Thus we have compassed the winter resorts on three main lines of railway, and yet there are more to be reached by other routes.

Travelers from the interior and Northwest often enter the State at its northwestern boundary, of which PENSACOLA is the principal city and port.

Being the largest lumber-shipping port in the South, its business is enormous, and eighty to one hundred sailing vessels from all parts may often be counted loading in its noble harbor at once. Here are a fine resort hotel, with beautiful villa-like



OCKLAWAHA RUN.



A HAMMOCK HOME.

houses high up overlooking the bay, a U. S. Navy Yard and government forts, and other objects of interest. The Pensacola and Atlanta Railroad runs eastward, connecting with the Florida Railway and Navigation system at the Chattahoochee River, and its trains are said to make the best time of any in the State. About half way is the important station of DEFUNIAK SPRINGS, and the hotel and grounds of the original Florida Chautauqua, where each February and March assemble a highly-cultivated class of educators and their pupils; the former being largely those who have made the New York Chautauqua so successful, and who continue their work in Florida when blizzards and cold at the North render all outdoor meetings out of the question. The soil for the most part along this route is too poor to attract emigration, and too far north for orange-growing. Jackson County, however, has much red clay land suitable for regular farming; and after crossing the Chattahoochee into Gadsden County, the clay soil predominates, and the country is quite rolling, Quincy, the county seat, being specially attractive. Soon TALLAHASSEE, capital of the State, is reached—an aristocratic city located in a beautifully rolling country of clay hills. From the most prominent elevation the Capitol looks down upon many miles of billowy fields.

“Befo’ de wah” TALLAHASSEE was the center of wealthy slave-owning planters, and the tourist with leisure may hear many a romantic tale from both master and slave by giving but the slightest encouragement. To one of a political turn, or the student of political economy, much will be found of interest while the legislature is in session, by visiting the Capitol and listening to the debates between leaders of the two great parties, probably of opposite colors. The race problem will doubtless assume a new shape in his mind as his admiration increases for a people that have borne such grievous burdens so uncomplainingly, and he will find himself asking if his



LAKE CITY COLLEGE.

fellow voters at the North would submit to such representation were negroes in the majority there. Thus do the most ardent but honest Republicans often broaden their views after a visit to the land where the Fifteenth Amendment means something. Tallahassee is worth a visit in February to see its flowers. Regal camellias bloom unprotected in many front yards, while tea-roses, poinsettas, and other hot-house plants are a joy to behold.

This is the only part of Florida where farming, as understood by the term at the North, can be successfully undertaken, and fields of waving oats, rye, corn, cotton, and cane are to be seen on every side, while cattle and swine are kept within bounds and cared for to their great improvement. The red clay soil makes hard roads, so that driving is a pleasure. Still going eastward by railroad, the same clay soil and rolling hills are features of the landscape. MONTICELLO is reached by a short branch railroad, and, like Tallahassee, is located on a hill. It is one of the old-time conservative plantation centers, capital of Jefferson County.

MADISON, further on, is headquarters for a great cotton trade, and quantities of "Long Staple" here find their way into "Clark's thread." Here, too, the negro population outnumbers the white—a condition of things that retards development, though soil and climate are inviting and land cheap.

At ELLAVILLE the historic "Suwanee Ribber" is crossed, a beautiful stream worthy of the "Old Folks at Home," or the affection for "de old plantation" that inspired those verses.

LIVE OAK looks very attractive from the train under its evergreen foliage of noble trees, from whence it takes its name. It is the center of trade for Suwanee County as well as its capital.

• LAKE CITY is a business-like town, where is located the State Agricultural College, and where the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway from Gainesville crosses the Florida Rail-

way and Navigation Company's system. Columbia County, of which this is the county seat, is one of the most progressive in advertising for settlers, and its productions in corn, cotton, poultry, vegetables, and even oranges, are surprising.

From here on the country partakes more of the flat woods type. SANDERSON and McCLENNY are the most progressive of the towns, the latter having lately been made county seat. It is offering strong inducements for settlers to locate.

Many a new-comer becomes heartsick on being set down at Baldwin, the junction for South Florida trains, where sometimes tedious delays from the west are unavoidable. Baldwin is the most desolate place imaginable, without a redeeming feature, and too often the intending settler makes up his mind in regard to the country below from its dismal surroundings, and is prejudiced against South Florida as a consequence.

It is but 19 miles from here to Jacksonville, and the tourist will do well to enjoy a good night's rest in a city hotel before he goes southward from Baldwin.

From Pensacola to Jacksonville is 450 miles, all in Florida, and by this time one begins to realize the fact that Florida is one of the largest States east of the Mississippi, only Illinois excelling it by a few square miles, the Empire State of New York being considerably less in area.

For many miles south of Baldwin the country presents the same dreary appearance—flat woods interspersed with swamps and cypress ponds. Gradually the land rises, until at Highland quite an elevation is reached, and a great mill, log railroad, houses and laborers, cabins belonging to a lumber company, are in sight.

At LAWTEY the traveler looks out upon New England-like homes of well-to-do people, surrounded by orange groves and gardens. One hundred and fifty acres of strawberries are cultivated at this place alone, a vast amount going north in March.

STARKE is a vigorous town, composed largely of Southerners, proud of what they have attained, pointing the traveler to their thrifty orange groves with satisfaction. Their low death-rate is proof of the city's healthfulness.

WALDO, fifteen miles further south, is a growing town, the junction of the Tropical Railroad for Ocala and South Florida, with the older line for Cedar Key. Continuing on the latter route, we reach the important city of **GAINESVILLE**, one of the largest in the State, a great sufferer by fire, but with enterprise and push enough to make a successful town in the face of disaster. The handsome county court-house here is a standing monument to the public spirit of its citizens. A large tourist hotel is greatly needed.

The State Military Academy is a well-conducted institution located here. Gainesville is the center for truck farmers, a larger acreage being planted in the surrounding region than in any portion of the State. The amount of strawberries shipped alone is astonishing.

Still going southwest, Levy County is reached, famous for its latent resources. From this county came the premium bale of cotton at the Atlanta Exposition. **BRONSON**, its capital, is situated in the midst of a fertile, attractive country, and its inhabitants are eager to welcome settlers. A few miles further and the train crosses a series of trestles over creeks and salt-marshes, beyond which the shallow waters of the Gulf are seen. **CEDAR KEY** is on the last of these islands, or "keys," and a fair harbor is its chief attraction. The town is worth a visit as a curiosity, consisting of one narrow street, bordered by low wooden or concrete buildings of Spanish or Cuban appearance, and is without churches. Rain-water is used for all purposes, as no good well-water is to be obtained on the island. Here are located the Faber and Eagle pencil works, furnishing employment to many in forming the Florida cedar that grows along the Gulf into requisite shapes for scribes and book-keep-



EN ROUTE FOR FLORIDA BY STEAMSHIP.

ers. The prepared wood is shipped North in pencil size to receive polish and lead in Northern factories.

Steamers connect with the railroad at Cedar Key for points all along the coast.

HOMOSASSA, a few miles south, is destined to be a great resort as its attractions become known. A railroad from Ocala is now in active construction to this point, and a stock company, of which ex-Gov. J. L. Chamberlain, formerly of Maine, is president, are making this a great resort. The attractions are peculiar, and perhaps unequaled, viz., a great spring, eight miles from the Gulf, making a navigable river of the clearest water, with hard, rocky bed and shores forming a natural wharf, so that a steamer can land at almost any point. The peculiar quality of the water seems to draw great schools of fish from the Gulf, and sheepshead, mullet and monstrous tarpon can be seen in the transparent water, and are easily captured. The surrounding country is of the richest hammock, 2,000 acres having been cleared and planted with sugar by the late ex-U. S. Senator Yulee, whose home was here before the war. The original Homosassa orange grove is also here, from which sprang a popular variety of the same name so generally cultivated. A comfortable hotel is already provided here, and the best of duck and deer shooting is promised.

Further down on the coast is the thriving town of TARPON SPRINGS, which owes its life to ex-Gov. Safford, formerly of Arizona, whose home is here.

Here is a large, first-class hotel ; likewise many handsome homes owned by wealthy Northern people. The Orange Belt Railroad is rapidly being pushed toward Tarpon, and may be there ere these lines are read, when, owing to the attractions of the place, its growth will be rapid.

Here, too, is a beautiful spring, forming a bayou with noble shores, which latter furnish choice building sites.

THE POINT PINELLIS PENINSULA is a miniature Florida in

shape, with the Gulf on the west and Tampa Bay on the east. It is destined, with railroad transportation, now assured, to have a large influx of settlers. Already the flourishing towns of DUNEDIN, CLEARWATER and DISSTON are established, and more will follow.

The country thus roughly outlined embraces nearly every point in Florida where tourists can be entertained unless they are prepared to "rough it," and many points named are yet without first-class hotel accommodations.

The line of the Florida Railway and Navigation Company from Waldo is now completed to Plant City, passing through the great groves of Ocala, the New England Colony at Belleview, the fine pine region of Oxford and Wildwood, and the great hammocks of Panasoffkee. This route is especially interesting to intending settlers, who should visit and study the advantages of this rapidly developing region.

HINTS TO SETTLERS.

OUR description of Florida towns has thus far been largely confined to places advertised as Winter resorts. Most of these also are eager to welcome a desirable class of settlers, and have many inducements to offer them, as well as to the more wealthy tourists. The routes of travel are the same as those mentioned, and we will not go into the tiresome detail of describing the same lines and towns from an intending settler's standpoint, but mention places passed over as resorts or lines of travel yet unmentioned.

Let us here urge the reader, if he be an intending settler, to come to Florida alone first, and carefully examine the locations he thinks after reading of them will suit him best. Take plenty of time, hear the stories of the enthusiast and the "ne'er-do-wells," and with a discerning mind separate the



A HAMMOCK DRIVE AND ORANGE GROVE.

wheat from the chaff. If candid yourself, this can be done, and time and money spent in this way are well invested, as hasty conclusions regarding so important a matter as a change of home and climate can only be unsatisfactory in the end. You will have a great amount of pressure brought to bear upon you by interested parties to "locate here" or "not to go there." Respectfully listen, but do not at once decide. You as a stranger cannot realize how much each new-comer means in a new country, where votes are few and society unformed. If your capital is limited, it will doubtless be wiser to locate in a promising newly-forming place where land is cheap, than to purchase near grown towns at extreme rates. Invest if possible "on the ground floor" (*i.e.*, at first prices) where transportation is assured, and land and water good. There are plenty of such locations yet in Florida, and though not at government prices, yet rates for land are often reasonable.

You will now see the wisdom in coming alone in advance of your family. Either the latter would be unhappy in a hotel or boarding-house at large expense, or grow homesick in some settler's small crowded house. Alone, you will be able to prospect, purchase, clear land, and build your house. If the purchase is made in October, all may be ready for the family by December, and they will be more contented than if they had come with you at first.

There is a great area of territory yet unpenetrated by railroads fully as desirable as that nearer the stations, but if delicate, dependent women and children are to be considered, it will doubtless be wiser to pay more for land with the latter advantages. Plucky, self-reliant, single young men may secure fortunes by settling on choice lands in promising localities back from the railroads, assured that pioneer life in such a climate has few of the hardships that trouble the prairie settler.

It is safe to affirm that towns or sections making extravagant offers of "free lands to settlers" are to be regarded with

suspicion as a rule. "Something for nothing" always implies fraud, and it will be a dear purchase to take a lot of land as a gift if, after improvements are made, the title is found defective, or years of isolation from neighbors must follow. Many a town "boomer" can afford to give alternate lots free to actual settlers, and then the latter may justly feel defrauded.

Thrifty settlements that grow to attractive towns command fair prices for their lands, as streets, parks, etc., cannot be made without cost, nor can desirable lands be secured free. The most popular sections for settlement may be noted on studying any recent map of Florida, and following the lines of railroad, noting where stations are thickest—an infallible sign of true worth. With millions of acres for selection, the first settlers do not congregate at certain points without good cause; yet it will be noted on many new lines of railroad the stations are few and far between; and on these rare opportunity is offered to men of ability and means to purchase tracts and form towns on a perfectly business-like basis. Men without ability to draw settlers, however, or other object but to extort the utmost for "city lots," have plotted many a town whose only building besides their own is the railway station, and whose whitewashed stakes, noting streets and lot boundaries, are with grim humor styled "graveyards" by residents. Graveyards of blasted hopes they must ever be to the unlucky projector.

Among the newer railroad lines along whose route settlers will find inducements may be mentioned the Florida Southern branch of the St. John's and Lake Eustis Railroad from Astor to Lane Park; the Ocala, Silver Spring and Gulf, now running from Ocala to the Withlacoochee River; the Florida Railway and Navigation Company's extension from Wildwood to Plant City; the Florida Southern Extension from Bartow to Charlotte Harbor; the Orange Belt Railroad from Sanford to Point Pinellas; the Tavares and Orlando Railroad between these im-

portant points (a beautiful country); the Sanford and Lake Eustis Railroad from Sanford to Tavares; the Tavares, Apopka and Gulf Railroad from Tavares to Kissimmee (and to be extended south through Manatee County to the Gulf). It will be seen there is yet region enough to select from, and railroads newly forming and to be constructed will open still more country as fast as the demand for settlement will warrant.

TAVARES, it will be noticed, is an important railroad center, no less than five lines either crossing or starting at that point. Being located in the heart of the great lake region, with 180 miles of navigable water tributary, it must become an important city.

EUSTIS, on the St. John's and Lake Eustis Railroad, but four miles away, is already an important town of 1,500 people, occupying a commanding position overlooking Lake Eustis, and the hill region back is dotted with lakes, while houses and groves are seen on every side. The Eustis region is one of the most desirable points for settlers.

MT. DORA, on the Sanford and Lake Eustis Railroad, is the site of the new Congregational Sunday-School Assembly, or Chautauqua gathering, which is a success. Its residents boast their great elevation above the clear waters of Lake Dora, and many other advantages.

SORRENTO, near by, is in the midst of a beautifully rolling country, free of undergrowth or malarial swamps.

But why particularize, when we cannot begin to enumerate all the good points for settlement, or their peculiar advantages? Besides those mentioned, the following towns publish circulars relating to settlement, and a postal-card addressed to any of the postmasters will bring papers, etc., in reply: Apopka, Ocoee, Ellsworth, Zellwood, Lake View, Silver Spring Park, Belleview, Haines City, Panasoffkee, Sumterville, Floral City, Liverpool, Orange City, Orange Home, etc.



A GROUP OF COCOANUT TREES.

FLORIDA DRAWBACKS.

PETTY SECTIONAL JEALOUSIES.

IT is a good indication, and speaks well for a community, when its inhabitants speak well of it. One would hesitate to settle in a locality where the people were continually setting forth their lack of public spirit, or bemoaning their disadvantages compared with neighboring towns. While the opposite extreme is hardly as gloomy, the results are nearly the same. On every hand the prospecting settler is bewildered by the conflicting reports of interested parties, and is led to conclude that its people are exceedingly narrow-minded if not untruthful. Many "prominent citizens" recognize nothing worth owning in Florida outside their limited possessions. While their side of the street is healthful, the opposite side, differing in no way, as the stranger can see, is declared by them to be malarious and deadly. Of course the prospector mentally regards both locations with suspicion, and moves on, to repeat his experience with variations in other places. It is amusing to a Florida resident to meet an enthusiastic new settler who declares at last he has found a location absolutely free from drawbacks, launching forth in detailing its advantages even more glowingly than the real-estate man did who "sold" him. It is safe to affirm that both the advantages and drawbacks of Florida are exaggerated by its residents, and the real truth concerning life here lies somewhere between the two extremes. While we have limited the choice regions of the State where some tropical fruits and winter vegetables can be profitably grown to one-tenth of its entire area, yet this is a territory sufficiently large to support thousands where there are yet but hundreds, and the desirable places are not monopolized by any

one person or company. While it is perfectly legitimate to advertise or laud by advertising any desirable region or enterprise, do not be misled to think that this is the only place worth investigating.

It is sad to witness the fruits of narrow-mindedness in the lack of co-operation that has hindered great public-spirited enterprises. Valuable time that ought to be devoted to the best interest of the State is too often wasted by our legislators in wrangling over bills designed to benefit their respective towns or private possessions. These petty jealousies have prevented successful organized effort to secure emigration, marketing of fruits, or reduced rates of transportation enjoyed by broader-souled communities. A new day has now dawned, however, and the people are at last awake as never before, sinking personal interests by uniting for organized effort. Consequently the past few months have seen the setting on foot of such noble enterprises as "The Florida Emigration Association," "The Sub-Tropical Exposition," and now, in addition to the "Florida Fruit Exchange," we are to have a system of cold storage for fruits, so they can be marketed as wanted, without loss by decay. All these denote that better times for Florida are at hand.

If "a house divided against itself cannot stand," it is a wonder that Florida has so rapidly advanced when so torn by internal dissensions and petty jealousies, and as these are removed we may expect a progress that shall be more rapid and healthful than the past has seen.

POLITICAL SECTIONALISM is no longer a drawback to Northern emigration in Florida, if indeed it ever was except in a few isolated, intensely Southern communities, where settlers are not, because they have not been welcomed. Northern men need not fear that they may blunder into such a community. Such localities do not publish circulars or other inducements to attract settlers. "Joined to their idols; leave them alone."



IN THE CANE PATCH.



COLLECTION OF FLORIDA FRUITS.



LAST OF THE SEMINOLES.

While a large proportion of nearly every Florida town are native Southerners who were Confederates during the war, many a Northern soldier who reads these lines will testify that they are among his warmest friends to-day. This is ever the case where there is charity on both sides. After getting thoroughly acquainted, the "blue and the gray" find there is little real difference between them. Of course there will always be political extremists on both sides—those who delight in stirring up strife for the sake of humoring their combative disposition rather than from any true patriotism. The average Southerner is too eager to get good neighbors to inquire specially as to how they vote.

THE NEGRO PROBLEM will assume a new form to even the most rabid abolitionist, after a residence in Florida. If he employs colored help, paying promptly, feeding well, and treating humanely, he will naturally expect the return and obedience he would from laborers at the North, and will be surprised to learn how utterly shiftless and devoid of all honor the average Southern 'darky' is, and will soon find out that the latter had much rather work for his old owner than for him. The ex-planters "get along" with negroes, as a rule, far more comfortably than do their Northern friends. So we find it that new towns composed mostly of Northerners have hardly enough colored inhabitants to do their hard work, and towns that were trading-places of the plantation owners before the war have a majority of Africans, and are frequently represented by the latter at the legislature and in humbler offices, which, we need hardly add, is not conducive to prosperity. The negro question in the South to-day is as unsettled as are the labor, socialistic, and emigration questions at the North, and with many characteristics in unison.

HOUSEHOLD DISCOMFORTS.—Even the tourist can scarce have failed to notice that while, as a rule, the men like Florida life, and are enthusiastic over its advantages, the women fre-

quently confess to homesickness, and often even long for colder weather, as well as the greater luxuries of dress and home comforts of their Northern residence.

As the weaker sex live indoors more and are not exposed to outdoor wintry storms as men are, the "climate" advantages of Florida do not have the same attractions for them, and of course the new home of the Florida settler does not compare favorably with his Northern home as to indoor or architectural attractions, upon which feminine happiness is so dependent.

With a climate that renders outdoor life in Florida a luxury for eleven months of the year, the husband with none too much capital will usually economize in house and house-furnishing, to enlarge and cultivate the orange grove from which he expects his income; consequently we find families used to comforts and luxuries often here living on bare floors, in homes devoid of the conveniences to which they were accustomed.

The woman whose world is her home, under these circumstances, away from society and loved friends, is apt to become tearfully sad. If, however, she has a taste for outdoor life, enjoys cultivating flowers, raising poultry, keeping bees, or silk farming, her mind will be healthfully employed, and if at the North she had weak lungs, she will appreciate the freedom of outdoor life, when she would be housed as an invalid for six months in her Northern home. She will miss cellars until she learns to use the Southern "safes," and possibly be annoyed by fleas, until she learns that dogs and cats must be here kept their distance. More care will be necessary to guard against dampness during the summer months, and she would enjoy the luxury of a good market, she thinks, once more, while the husband congratulates himself over the fuel, rent and clothing saved, and complacently compares his "living" account with that of a year ago at the North, with its doctor's bills and incidentals which foot up so amazingly.

LONG, DULL SUMMERS.—Florida summers may be compared with rural Northern winters in one respect at least, viz., their exceeding dullness. Winter is the season of activity in this land of flowers. It is the season of planting and gathering of fruits. Each resort and town has its quota of Northern visitors, the hotels are gay with life, and business of all kinds is at its full tide.

With the warm days of May, however, come the almost daily showers, and there is little of the horticultural or farming activity that characterizes this season at the North. During the months that follow, the oranges simply grow with now and then a tickling of the hoe. Southern corn is tasseled in April, ripe in early July. The melon crop is gathered by June, while the sweet "taters" and pinders or peanuts require seemingly little care after the first planting and ridging. Almost as sure as the mercury approaches ninety degrees in June, July or August, at mid-day down pours a grateful shower, keeping what would be otherwise a desert moist and flourishing. This is the season of excursions to the lakes, seashore, or perhaps the mountains of North Carolina, or even ocean trips to see old friends at the North, from which many come back declaring they never suffered so with the heat as since they left Florida.

That the mercury does not reach the figures in Florida that it does throughout the North is easily proved by the published Signal Service Reports. Why does it not? The trade-winds blowing over our narrow peninsula between Gulf and Gulf Stream are sufficient cause. We append on page 129 the Signal Service Report for 1886, taken at Jacksonville, Florida.

So again we say that it is not the excessive heat we object to in Florida, as that it is so long continued that it becomes monotonous. Many who enjoy hot weather declare that even in Florida they enjoy summers best without the cool spells.



"WAY DOWN UPON DE S'WANNEE RIBBER."

FLORIDA FACTS.

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MONTH.	BAROMETER.			THERMOMETER.			WIND.		Precipitation in Inches and Hundredths.	WEATHER.										
	Monthly Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Monthly Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total Movement.	Prevailing Direction.		Clear Days.	Fair Days.	Cloudy Days.	Rainy Days.	Minimum Temperature below 32°.	Maximum Temperature above 99°.	Thunder Storms.				
January.....	30.033	30.517	29.478	50.7	72.9	15.3	43.7	78.8	5.865	W.	2	81	5	11	15	10	5	0	0	0
February.....	30.108	30.580	29.825	53.5	72.6	24.3	39.13	N. E.	1.87	12	10	6	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
March.....	30.007	30.364	29.638	59.9	83.6	37.0	5.218	N. W.	6.74	8	16	12	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
April.....	30.023	30.292	29.660	66.5	85.6	41.0	5.529	N. E.	3.08	14	10	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
May.....	29.980	30.208	29.757	75.8	91.8	55.9	4.617	S. W.	2.81	15	11	5	5	0	4	3	6	3	0	0
June.....	29.953	30.131	29.782	80.7	94.3	66.9	4.678	S. E.	4.78	3	22	5	16	0	11	6	3	0	0	2
July.....	29.957	30.153	29.728	80.9	96.7	70.2	4.486	S. W.	14.97	2	17	12	26	0	13	4	4	3	0	0
August.....	29.970	30.186	29.767	80.4	93.8	66.9	4.002	S. E.	6.25	6	18	7	15	0	14	4	4	3	0	0
September.....	30.045	30.179	29.854	78.6	92.0	66.0	3.610	N. E.	4.91	8	15	7	14	0	3	2	2	0	0	2
October.....	30.090	30.227	29.917	68.9	87.3	44.0	4.272	N. E.	2.17	13	12	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
November.....	30.133	30.349	28.875	59.1	81.9	35.5	3.663	N. W.	2.97	28	5	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
December.....	30.107	30.137	29.697	52.8	75.8	27.4	3.884	N. E.	3.26	20	13	8	12	4	0	0	0	0	0	1
Annual Means and Highest and Lowest.....	30.035	30.580	29.478	67.3	94.3	15.4	54.177	N. E.	54.86	114	160	91	146	11	45	33				

CLIMATIC DISORDERS, as has been shown under the proper heading (see "Our Climate"), are only those affecting the liver; mild types of malaria, easily cured or avoided by judicious diet and residence in the dry pine lands.

Sand is reckoned by many as among Florida's chief drawbacks, and during the dry winter months the loose soil does dreadfully "tread up" in the streets, and makes riding or walking anything but a pleasure; but is it not infinitely better than the mud hubs that interfere with locomotion during winter months at the North?

Florida's porous soil is the cause of her low death-rate.

REPTILES AND INSECTS.—Alligators and snakes are no longer seriously considered as drawbacks except by very ignorant people.

The probability is you may spend months or years in Florida without seeing either, wild. There are hardly alligators enough to show the tourist except in uninhabited regions, and there are more snakes in the average New England forest than in Florida woods. As to insects, the wonder is, when the air is so damp and moist as our summers are, that there are not more flies and mosquitoes. The latter are troublesome only in locations bordering sedgy streams or ponds. A diminutive gnat is a nuisance in high pine locations during the summer months, as he insists in investigating eyes and nose without regard to his life. A gentle breeze, or tobacco smoke, will keep him away.

Fleas annoy settlers who allow dogs or cats about the house, or hogs to roam at will. Some complexions, like that of the writer's, repel fleas, while others in the same house or room will be annoyed by them.

Sand flies are a salt-water nuisance that bite on quiet days along the coast where salt marshes abound.

Thus have we honestly treated in detail Florida's drawbacks, furnishing for the enemies of the State weapons for attack with a candor no pamphlet for the sale of lands would be guilty



"WATER MELLION" TIME.

of, and it rests with the reader if he will be as honest in quoting our advantages with our drawbacks. Every country has the latter, and if withheld from books that are bought to learn the truth, and the whole truth, the writer is apt to conjure in his mind a far worse state of things than exists. Florida has nothing to fear from relating the truth, and we believe every disinterested, well-informed actual settler of experience will indorse what we have written.

WHO SHOULD AND WHO SHOULD NOT SETTLE IN FLORIDA.

THE all-important question in the reader's mind now doubtless is, "Am I fitted for Florida life?" or "Would I be suited there?" We are by no means ready to give a wholesale affirmation to these queries, realizing the fact that many of those most eager to risk their all in Florida are unfitted for success or enjoyment there. In this we allude only to intending settlers; wealthy tourists or pleasure-seekers have been advised in other chapters. At the outset, we admit that money has much to do with the question; for if money is desirable when established with credit at the North, how much more is it necessary in a brand new country, among strangers, with everything to purchase and a good name to be established. If in the place of ready cash the prospective settler has not an extra amount of ability and perseverance, or pluck sufficient to overcome great obstacles, we warn him to accept more genteel positions at the North. We scarcely dare, as a rule, advise families to locate in Florida with less than \$500 ready cash, though it is true many have come empty-handed and yet prospered, and others with many times \$500 have lost all. Nowhere is real business ability better rewarded, or a lack of this quality worse punished. We have assumed that the intending settler has

horticultural tastes or intentions, as clerkships or professions in Florida are already overcrowded, and small encouragement can be given seekers for so-called "genteel" occupations. True each newly forming town requires a postmaster, and general merchandise store, but it also requires ten times as many producers. There is never a lack of those ready to take the former occupations, while there is a need of the latter. A knowledge of civil engineering comes into good stead where so much surveying is required.

Carpenters have the best trade in Florida. Masons, plumbers, and blacksmiths find a smaller business in proportion to the number of inhabitants than at the North. Millmen earn good wages. Manufacturing, as a rule, is at a discount. Horticulture is the staple occupation. The numerous railroads give employment to many trainmen, engineers, station agents, and telegraph operators, who are no better paid, of course, than at the North, and we would hardly encourage these classes to go to Florida to find such positions unless Northern winters are to them unbearable.

WHO, THEN, SHOULD COME TO FLORIDA?

FIRST of all, those who thrive best in warm weather at the North. It is no place for stout people, who delight in frost and snow, and feel best when the thermometer is registered below freezing.

Second, those predisposed to consumption, with bronchial or catarrhal affections, or who catch cold, have lung fever, coughs, or asthma with each recurring winter; also, delicate children in danger of croup or diphtheria, and elderly people afflicted with rheumatism.

Third, plucky single young men of good habits, anxious to obtain a start in life which the sharp competition at the North

will not allow them. Let such apprentice themselves at the first fruit-grower's place that offers, at low wages, and if true worth is in them, the way will open.

Fourth, young, industrious men, with cheerful, helpful wives and small families. Such will do well to locate near growing towns, where social and school privileges are assured for the family.

Fifth, capitalists with money to loan ; for it stands to reason in a new country, demanding cash for everything from the ground floor up, with values rapidly increasing, and returns long deferred but sure, people can afford to pay higher interest than at the North, where money is plentiful. At the same time, we do not wish to encourage any Shylocks or over-greedy parties to come with the idea of squeezing the hard-working settler.

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Florida has its full share of grumblers, and those who are at "outs" with the world and mankind generally. The roving, discontented masses will only find additional grievances here, and had better not come.

We should hardly advise settlers to come earlier than October, unless they wish to prospect in advance and form their opinion when the country is dullest and hottest.

The cost of living in Florida should be no more than at the North for the same goods, except for the slight additional cost of freights far down the State. Merchants, however, do not sell as closely as at the North, where competition is lively, and the average "Southerner" is not "small" at a bargain. Of course there is a great saving over the North on rents, clothing, fuel, fresh meats, etc. Many a family in Florida lives comfortably on from \$300 to \$500 cash, besides what is raised.

Horses and mules are usually imported, and cost about Northern prices ; wagons, plows, and implements come from further North at about the same cost.



A YOUNG CABBAGE PALMETTO.

Lumber is plentiful and cheap. Rough yellow pine at the mills, \$10 to \$12 per thousand; dressed, \$15 to \$20. At these rates, a fair house can be built at \$500 or \$1,000. The latter would be of six or eight rooms.

Negro laborers get \$1 per day. White laborers get \$1.50 per day. Carpenters get from \$2 to \$3 per day.

MONTHLY CALENDAR OF FARM AND GARDEN WORK.

BY D. H. JACQUES.

NO calendar for farm and garden operations that could be constructed would suit all parts of Florida, but new-comers will find the following monthly hints of use, if good judgment be exercised in their modification and application, so as to adapt them to the different latitudes and conditions under which they may work:

JANUARY.—Irish potatoes, peas, flat turnips, kohl-rabi, cabbages, lettuce, radishes, beets, carrots, spinach, and all other hardy vegetables may be planted. Of the beets, plant only the turnip and half long kinds. Bassano is one of the best. Of carrots, Early Short Horn should be chosen. Orange and other fruit trees may be set out. Oats should have been sown in the fall, but will do now. Make hot-beds, if required, for forwarding tomatoes, egg plants, etc. Break up ground for corn and sugar-cane.

FEBRUARY.—Plant corn, Irish potatoes, turnips, tanyals, cucumbers, squashes, melons, and snap beans, protecting from frost if necessary. Plant sugar-cane by the middle of the month. Bed sweet potatoes, for "draws," or plant where they are to grow, to get vines for planting. Sow oats—Red Rust Proof, if that variety can be got. Plant orange and lemon trees.

MARCH.—Oats may still be sown. Continue to plant corn, Irish potatoes, turnips, kohl-rabi, cucumbers, squashes, melons, pumpkins, and beans. Plant okra and bene, and transplant tomatoes and egg plants from hot-bed or frame. Blackberries and huckleberries should now be had from the woods, fields, and garden.

APRIL.—Continue to plant the crops of last month, with the exception of Irish potatoes, turnips, and kohl-rabi, and to transplant tomatoes and egg plants. Sow cow peas, corn for fodder, and Egyptian or Cat Tail millet. Set out guinea grass. Gather berries. Commence planting sweet potato draws, if ready. Plant a few Lady peas or Davis' White Bunch pea, for green peas for the table; also Sieva beans. Dig Irish potatoes. Snap beans, peas, and tomatoes should be ready for shipment.

MAY.—Continue to plant sweet potatoes, being careful to have the ground moist when the beds or ridges are thrown up. Grout the roots of the draws or slips with a batter composed of equal parts of fresh cow-dung, vegetable mold, and ashes. Dig Irish potatoes and gather other vegetables from the garden. Pick plums. Plant Lady or Davis' white pea, for table use, and continue to do so until September if you like them; also continue to plant Sieva beans and okra.

JUNE.—There will be little planting this month, except sweet potatoes and cow peas. These may be planted whenever the ground is sufficiently moist, till the middle of August. As soon as vines can be had from the potatoes planted for that purpose, abandon the draws, as the vine-cuttings will make a better crop. Cut the vines from a foot to a foot and a half long, lay them across the bed or ridge, at right angles with it, fifteen inches apart, and push them into the soil with a stick having a notch in the end. If the ground be not pretty wet, water on planting. Irish potatoes, tomatoes, beans, and garden vegetables generally will be in use, as will plums, peaches, and early grapes.

JULY.—In those parts of the State where there is a well-defined rainy season; orange trees may now be set out; but unless there be a good deal of rain, it is better to wait. Grapes, melons, peaches, and figs will be in use, or ready for market.

AUGUST.—Plant cow peas and finish planting sweet potatoes. Sow cabbage seed in beds or frames for fall plants. Sow rutabaga turnips and kohlrabi. Transplant and bud orange trees.

SEPTEMBER.—If sufficient rains occur to keep the soil in a moist condition, now is the time to commence the winter garden—the beginning of our second spring. Plant Irish potatoes, cabbages, turnips, kohlrabi, celery, parsley, lettuce, radishes, carrots (Early Short Horn), beets, and beans. Set out asparagus and strawberry plants. If any plantings fail this month, renew them in October.

OCTOBER.—Nearly all the operations of last month are still in order, and still more likely to be successful. Plant garden peas. Set out cabbage plants. Sweet potatoes can be dug, as wanted. Crab-grass hay may be made from fields from which crops have been taken. Orange trees may be planted out toward the last of the month. Sow oats; also rye broadcast for a winter pasture, and drills for cut forage.

NOVEMBER.—Continue the work of October in the garden. Plant fruit trees of all kinds. Sow oats, barley, and rye. Dig sweet potatoes and make sugar and syrup.

DECEMBER.—This is the time to clear land, build fences, and do as much as possible of the heavy work of the farm. Prepare ground, by heavy manuring, and thorough spading and plowing, for early crops. Continue to make sugar. Bank seed cane, if not ready to plant it at once. Plant Irish potatoes and peas. Continue to plant orange and other fruit trees, shrubs, and vines. Prune grape-vines immediately after the first frost. Protect tender plants and young trees from frost where there is liability to injury, as in the upper part of the State.



A FLORIDA HOME.

THE SUB-TROPICAL EXPOSITION

Opens its doors at Jacksonville, January 10, 1888, and will provide the student of Florida's resources ample facilities to study her productions, and interview some of the most expert orange and fruit growers in daily attendance.

It is designed as a permanent exhibition for legitimate entertainment and instruction. (See frontispiece.)

IN CONCLUSION,

"FLORIDA FACTS, both bright and blue," are chronicled in as terse, plain, and practical a way as we can command. Much is crude and unpolished, for beautifully-rounded sentences have not been studied so much as the most direct way of stating things so as not to be misunderstood. It is quite probable that Florida, as here portrayed, is very different from that which existed in the reader's mind ere these words were read. If he can honestly say he belongs to one of the classes named as best fitted for Florida, and yet is not convinced that this is the climate for him, we have failed in our mission. In that case, come to Florida, see, and decide for yourself, whether these words are true.