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Honest facts regarding Florida; her tropical and semi-tropical productions, &c.

W. F. Redding

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HONEST FACTS
REGARDING
FLORIDA;
HER TROPICAL
AND
SEMI-TROPICAL PRODUCTIONS, &C.

BY
W. F. REDDING,
SORRENTO, ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Price, 25 Cents.

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HONEST FACTS

REVEALED

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W. F. REDDING,

NEW YORK, CHICAGO, AND ST. LOUIS.

Price, 25 Cents.

PREFACE.

The writer wishes, in as few words as possible, to give not only reliable but honest information from *experience* and other *sources*, that may be relied upon by those that may wish to become better acquainted with Florida, with a view, perhaps, to investment in orange, lemon and other fruit culture (pleasure), or a safe retreat into this Italy of America for the restoration of health.

With earnest desire for the success of Florida and all that may take an interest in her and their own welfare by so doing, this little book is submitted by the author.

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THE FLORIDA
REVIEW

The writer wishes to give not only reliable but honest information from experience and other sources that may be relied upon by those that may wish to become better acquainted with Florida with a view perhaps to investment in oranges, lemon and other fruit culture (plantation) or a safe retreat into the Italy of America for the restoration of health.

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73-13725

HONEST FACTS

REGARDING

FLORIDA.

The peninsula of Florida extends from 25° to 31° north latitude, with an average breadth of ninety miles, the waters of the Atlantic on the East, and the Gulf of Mexico on the West, giving it a coast line of nearly 1,200 miles, and an unusually equable climate. The soil is capable of producing not only the ordinary crops of the Northern States, but also all the sub-tropical staples and fruits. The surface of the country is generally level, and is covered with a dense forest, affording protection to game of all kinds, fine fish abounding in the rivers that traverse it; also in its beautiful clear lakes. The salubrity of its climate, and the productiveness of its soil, are attracting much attention, and the State, rapidly becoming settled by an enterprising class of people, is destined at no distant day to become the garden of America.

THE ORANGE.

Of all the fruits grown in the State, this is of the most importance. It is the longest lived fruit tree known; attaining the age of over an hundred years, and bearing fruit abundantly throughout its life. It commences bearing the

third year after budding, and by the sixth year produces enormous crops, its yield continuing to increase with age. During the first ten years of its life it attains more growth than during the next half century. It is not only a prolific but a steady bearer. The blossoms appear during the early Spring, and it is no uncommon sight to see buds, flowers, green and ripe fruit on a tree at the same time. The ripe fruit clings to the tree for months after maturity, without loss of sweetness or flavor. The oranges grown in South Florida are acknowledged by all as superior to those from any other part of the State, and command, even in the Florida market, a much higher price. They sell, in the Southern States, at from \$15 to \$40 per thousand, with a demand far in excess of the supply, and in the New York market they command at least twice the price of the choicest Havana fruit.

Those persons who have visited the different orange producing countries of the globe, are unanimous in their verdict that the Florida orange can not be surpassed.

As an instance of the profits of orange growing, we need only mention the well known grove of Col. H. L. Hart, on the St. John's river, which, containing but five acres, yields him an income of from \$15,000 to \$25,000 per annum. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe mentions, in "PALMETTO LEAVES," page 145, crops of *five and ten thousand* oranges per tree.

Mr. C. F. Reed, of Mandarin, Fla., raised, in 1870, *twelve thousand oranges from three trees*,

one tree bearing three thousand two hundred, one, three thousand three hundred, and one, five thousand five hundred.

We quote the following brief description of the celebrated Dummit's Grove: "The oldest part of the grove is about twenty-three years old, very uniform in size, averaging two feet above the ground, twelve inches in diameter, twenty to twenty-six feet high. Many of these trees have borne ten thousand oranges, while two of them have borne over eleven thousand."

1880.—The Hon. P. P. Bishop and Mr. J. A. Harris, of Marion County, will this year (each) pick one million oranges from their groves. (Mr. Harris last year sold his crop for \$19,000 net.) Hundreds of others are doing as well, considering the size of their groves, and all may, by a faithful and intelligent application of their energy and capital to the business.

Moore says, in his book, entitled "TREATISE AND HAND-BOOK ON ORANGE CULTURE IN FLORIDA," that

THE PROFIT OF ORANGE GROWING,

when compared to the profit arising from other kinds of business, is so large that a statement of facts is often withheld because the truth seems fabulous to those who have only had experience in the cultivation of other kinds of fruits. Those engaged in the business consider each tree, so soon as it is in healthy and vigorous bearing, worth \$100. Indeed, the annual yield of such a tree will pay a large interest on the \$100—from 10 to 150 per cent.

per annum. Now, if we take into consideration that from 40 to 100 trees are grown on an acre, the yield is immense. In the quiet country, breathing its pure atmosphere, with fresh fruits and vegetables from January to January, with milk, butter, honey and poultry, the product of his farm and accessories to his grove, the man who has once brought his trees into successful bearing can enjoy all these and much more besides, having at his command an income quite equal to that commanded by owners of blocks of well improved real estate in our towns and cities, with not one-tenth part of the original cost of city investments; or, if the owner chooses, he is at liberty to go abroad without fear of the incendiaries' torch, or the failure of commercial firms or banks. The fear has sometimes been expressed that the business will be overdone, that the supply will, after a while exceed the demand, and the price of the fruit, so decline that the orange will be unprofitable to the grower. But those who entertain this fear have certainly not considered the facts. That portion of the States, with climate suitable for growing the orange, is comparatively small. The southern portion of California, a very small part of Louisiana, and the whole of Florida, if devoted to orange culture, is but a trifle compared to the vast sections of the United States which will be well filled with inhabitants long before the orange growing sections can be brought into bearing. The present yield of fruit grown in the United States furnishes hardly one orange a year to each in-

habitant. Our population will likely double, judging the future by the past, in the next thirty or forty years. To furnish such a population with one orange or lemon a day will require no less than 30,000,000,000 of oranges or lemons per annum. The skill in gathering, curing and packing the late and early varieties now appearing will enable the grower to furnish for the market at all seasons of the year, either oranges or lemons. The wholesomeness of the fruit, together with its medicinal qualities, will increase its popularity as an article of food until it will be universally used. At present the production of Florida oranges is so small that it is not known in the market of many of our large cities. The foreign varieties offered in those markets, even when fully ripe, and eaten fresh in their own countries, will not compare with the Florida orange. But in order to reach this country in sound condition they have to be gathered when green, and hence are not only unpalatable but unwholesome. When the Florida orange becomes generally known, and the supply is adequate, it will exclude these foreign varieties, and because of its excellence become universally used. Such will be the demand.

Now note the possibility of supply. Only a small proportion of those sections with climate sufficiently mild to grow the orange can ever be made available. The long dry seasons of California prevent the possibility of growing this fruit in that State except by irrigation, while the estimated yield per tree is only six hundred oranges.

In Louisiana the possible area is but small. In Florida the climate conditions are more favorable, but the land and location suitable are not one hundredth part of the State. Another fact lessens the possibility of yield. Orange culture belongs to the class of skilled labor. Hundreds engaged in the business will fail, because success requires intelligence, application, patience and skill. Hundreds have already failed from one or all of these causes, and have left the State, never dreaming that they alone are to be blamed for their failure. Men in the very communities thus abandoned have succeeded because they were more prudent in the selection of soil and location, and used their intelligence and the intelligence of others and persevered in the face of partial failure brought about by ignorance. But those men who failed took no advice except that of the land owner who offered to sell land cheaper than any one else. They read nothing that had been written by men who had succeeded. They took no warning of those who had failed. Stilted on their castle of self conceit they stood, nor deigned to look down to the humble but prudent laborer for advice, till their castle fell and they left the State imagining that the "Sand of Florida" had proven an unstable foundation and overthrown them and their castle. Such instances will repeat themselves. Whoever may succeed such men will fail, whatever may be written on the subject, and, however published, whether in book or journal, will not be read by them. But while the above facts will lessen the general

yield of oranges, it will make the business vastly more profitable to the men who possess the virtues necessary to success. The orange will pay beyond any other fruit at half a cent an orange on the tree. In Europe, where lands are exceedingly high, a grove is considered a most profitable investment, even when the fruit sells from \$2 to \$4 per thousand. Ten years ago the Florida orange was considered well sold when the grower could get one cent on the tree. Few now sell for less than one and a half cents, and some average at their groves as high as *four* cents per orange, and the price still advances.

In no business can a young man with pluck, intelligence and application, so certainly lay the foundation for a competency and fortune as in orange growing in Florida. With the exercise of these he may in ten years be what the country could call a rich man.

METHODS OF PLANTING ORANGE GROVES.

The question is frequently asked, "Which is the best?" The several methods are: first, the budding of the wild sour trees without moving them; second, budding them first and planting afterwards in some suitable location; third, planting the sour stumps and budding afterwards; fourth, growing the trees from sweet seed without budding; fifth, planting the sweet seedling and budding either before or after removal from nursery; sixth budding on sour seedlings either before or after removal from nursery; and seventh, a grove of sweet seedlings.

Each of these plans has some advantage over the other. They all have advocates but which of all has the greatest number of advantages is questionable. I have tried them all, but, after stating the advantages of each, must leave to the grower to select for himself as circumstances and inclination may control. If one is impatient for return, let him choose the sour grove, if he can find it, and bud the trees where they stand. With proper management he may begin to gather in two years. If he is still impatient but cannot find a sour grove, let him buy the sour stumps, plant them in some suitable location, and he may begin to gather fruit in three years from planting. But, if he can wait awhile longer for fruit with the hope of getting a longer lived tree and more abundant yield, let him plant younger trees, either seedlings or budded stock. If he wishes an early bearer and comparatively smaller trees, he can select the sour seedling budded. But if a larger but later bearer, he can select the sweet seedling budded. If he wishes an abundant yield and the largest trees, and can wait a longer time, the sweet seedling unbudded will suit. With good treatment, such trees will begin to yield in eight years, and after a longer time, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, give him a fair quality of fruit. But perhaps he will have as many varieties or sub-varieties as trees in his grove. The sour stock for a few years will grow more rapidly, but will finally make a smaller tree than the sweet. The best quality of fruit can be insured only by budding from the best varieties.

JACKSONVILLE—THE NEW YORK OF FLORIDA.

Jacksonville is a busy, thriving metropolis with a large percentage of northern population for its permanent residents. With hotel accommodations superior to former years—it having been necessary to enlarge and improve several of them to meet the rush of increasing travel—the season of '81-'82 bids fair to be the most brilliant ever known in Florida. Without doubt, northern people of wealth and cultivation will in the future more generally spend their winters there in preference to going abroad.

The Mallory Line direct to Jacksonville, without any change, has brought New York and Florida so near each other that the former discomforts of the trip are done away with, and are no more a matter of consideration than a trip from New York to Boston would be.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

Leaving Jacksonville by steamer (daily), sailing up the beautiful St. John's River, you reach Tocoj, distant about forty-nine miles. Here you take the cars and reach St. Augustine (thirteen miles) in about thirty minutes. This is the quaintest and perhaps one of the most thoroughly old fashioned settlements in the United States, and an afterthought decides that you have done well in visiting it; the trip on the river alone being well worth the journey. The resident population is upwards of 3,000,

largely increased in the winter season, St. Augustine being the objective point of a large proportion of the Florida travel. The city is about forty miles south of the mouth of the St. John's River, and thirty-five miles southeast of Jacksonville. It is located on the coast, on a peninsula formed by the Matanzas River on the east and the St. Sebastian River on the south and west, and is only separated from the ocean by Anastasia Island, which partly obscures the view.

It is the oldest European settlement in the United States, and its history carries us back almost to the middle ages. It was founded by the Spaniards in 1565, more than half a century before the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and was from the start a place of note and the scene of interesting historical events. First a Spanish settlement, then captured by the English, to be again retaken by the Spanish in 1640, it continued for nearly 150 years to pass through many vicissitudes under the different rule of English, Spanish and French, until in 1819 it was transferred by Spain to the United States. During the late civil war, its former fortune seemed to follow it, for it changed hands three different times. All these changes have left many interesting marks behind them; and the traditional "oldest inhabitant," of which St. Augustine has not a few, points with fond pride to places and buildings of much historic interest.

One of the most interesting features of the town is the old Fort of San Marco, now Fort

Marion, which is built of coquina, a unique conglomerate of fine shell and sand. The fort stands on the sea front at the northeast end of the town. It was a hundred years in building, and was completed in 1756. It is a striking structure, with its castellated battlements, its formidable bastions, with their frowning guns, its lofty and imposing sally port, surmounted by the royal Spanish arms, its portcullis, moat and drawbridge, its circular and ornate sentry boxes at each principal parapet angle, its commanding lookout tower, and its stained and moss grown massive walls, impress the external observer as a relic of the past. Next to the fort the great attraction is the Sea Wall, which, beginning at the water battery of the fort, extends southward for nearly a mile, protecting the entire ocean front of the city. It, too, is built of coquina, with a granite coping four feet wide, and furnishes a delightful promenade of a moonlight evening. Near the south end of the wall are the United States Barracks, which are among the finest and most complete in the country. Amongst the many places of interest are the Plaza de la Constixucion, a fine public square surrounded by a fence and furnished with seats, which are seldom unoccupied during the winter season. The old Catholic Cathredal, with its quaint, Moorish belfry, and chime of four bells set in separate niches, forms, with the clock, a perfect cross. The old convent of St. Mary's and the new convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, combine with the Cathredal to make you think for a moment you

are in a Catholic country and a foreign land. Indeed, there is so much to charm the eye and interest the mind in this odd old town of St. Augustine, that it rather needs the many pages of a large volume to describe it than the few leaves of a pamphlet. Much better than either of these, however, is to see and judge for yourself, and we are sure a few days' sojourn will convince you the place is *sui generis*, and should never be omitted from the programme of a Florida tour. The hotels are most excellent, and the traveler may rest assured he will be well and kindly cared for, and will, without doubt, meet many a familiar face, for all the traveling world of the United States stops, for a while, at least, at St. Augustine during the winter.

INDIAN RIVER.

This has been called the Happy Hunting Ground of the hunter and the fisherman. The river or sound—for it is as much one as the other—is one hundred and forty-two miles long, from one to four miles wide and about four feet deep. It is almost due east from Mellonville, directly on the coast, and only separated from the ocean by long, narrow strips of land. The sound can be reached by yachting parties from St. Augustine. The trip is frequently made and the sail is a very attractive one.

THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER.

This beautiful stream, regarding which so much has been written and said, rises in the springs and beautiful clear lakes of South Flor-

ida and runs north nearly 400 miles ; turning east at Jacksonville, it empties into the ocean, distant about twenty-five miles. The river runs through a lovely country, and at the northern end for about 150 miles is an unbroken chain of picturesque little lakes, from one to six miles wide. All along its banks may be seen an almost continuous variety of the most luxuriant tropical vegetation, and it is here that are seen the numerous picturesque little towns and orange groves.

MULBERRY GROVE.

Leaving Jacksonville, we first stop at *Mulberry Grove* on the west bank ; a quiet little spot with a grove that has given it the name it bears.

MANDARIN.

The next place is *Mandarin*, on the east bank, an old settlement and famous as the residence of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Here are several large orange groves.

ORANGE PARK,

Opposite Mandarin, is a place where much Northern capital has been well spent. It is the highest elevation attained by any large body of land on the St. John's River, and, with an excellent hotel, is already a most popular spot with tourists and also with settlers.

HIBERNIA.

The next place is *Hibernia*, on the west bank, one of the most popular resorts for invalids on the river, with good boarding houses.

MAGNOLIA,

On the west bank, is a very charming place and visited by many tourists. It is beautifully situated and has a good hotel. Just above here is Magnolia Point, one of the highest elevations of land along the river. The Black Creek empties into the river near this place and is a noted place for alligators.

GREEN COVE SPRINGS,

A place of much note. Here are located the large sulphur springs which discharge about 3,000 gallons of water per minute. They are not at all unpleasant to the taste and are very beneficial in cases of rheumatism, gout, and Bright's disease of the kidneys. There are several excellent hotels.

PICOLATA,

On the east bank, a Spanish settlement of very ancient date. The old town was on the west bank, where may be found relics of the former settlement.

TOCOI,

On the east bank, about forty-nine miles from Jacksonville. Here passengers land and take cars for St. Augustine, thirteen miles distant.

FEDERAL POINT

Is the next place, and is celebrated for its early and delicious strawberries.

PALATKA,

On the west bank, is the largest town on the St. John's, south of Jacksonville; is a finely

located place, and a favorite resort of those troubled with pulmonary complaints. It is the terminus of all the larger steamers, and from here the smaller boats run on to the Ocklawaha River, Silver Springs, and other points about 175 miles further south. There are excellent hotel accommodations, and good churches, schools, etc. Further on, we come to San Mateo, then Volusia, Astor, Hawkinsville, Blue Springs, Orange City and Mellonville.

SANFORD,

One mile from Mellonville, a very attractive place. Here there is a good hotel, and excursions may be made to many pretty lakes and places adjacent, at any of which may be found good boarding accommodations.

The next place is *Enterprise*, on the east bank of Lake Monroe, the head of regular steamboat navigation. This is a very popular resort, especially for invalids, as the climate is much warmer than Jacksonville. The air is balmy and invigorating. Though there are many good boarding places and a most excellent hotel, they are well filled during the winter season, thus attesting to the well deserved popularity and health-giving properties of the place.

From here you may still take smaller boats for other points of interest.

THE OCKLAWAHA RIVER,

About which so much has been said or written—whose name so few can remember, or if recalled can never be spelled—empties into the St. John's river twenty-five miles above Palatka,

just opposite Welaka, and is about 275 miles long. It can hardly be called a river—it is more like sailing through a chain of lakes, or through woods which are overflowed by the backwaters of a river. It is well worth a journey, so new and novel a scene of life does it open up, with its overhanging banks, its trees that meet overhead, and its many colored foliages, that remind us of the tropics. Reaching Silver Spring, the great attraction on this route, the traveler rests to admire and marvel over this wonder of Nature. The Spring is sixty feet deep, a few feet off shore, and covers a space of several acres before contracting into its outlet, the Run. Gazing into its depths and glancing across the broad surface of the Spring, one's eye is met by a charming mosaic of brilliant hues. The water plain varies in color, according to what it lies upon. Over the pure, white limestone and shells of the bottom, it is a perfect malachite green; over the water grass it is a much darker green; over the scum moss it is that rich brown and green which Bodmer's forest engravings so vividly suggest; over neutral bottoms, it reflects the sky's or the cloud's colors. All these views are further varied by mixtures with the manifold shades of foliage; reflections cast from overhanging bosage near the shore, and still further by the angle of the observer's eye.

Further up the river is reached the beautiful Lake Eustis, which is only one of the many that make up a continuous chain for fifty miles or more through the center of Middle

South Florida, where are found the best and most extensive orange groves in the State. The land being high open pine land, easy of access, easy of cultivation; of a rich sand loam underlaid with *clay, marl, shell* and other rich deposits, produces the orange that increases in sweetness and flavor with age, and keeps longer than those grown on low or hammock land. Lying east of these lakes is Orange County, the best in the State for orange and lemon culture, and in fact, all the other more fancy fruits.

Having as it does, more acres of the most desirable land, and rapidly settling up with first class people from all sections of the country, makes it at once all that can be desired by those seeking an investment or home in Florida. Here are also found United States government homesteads; one hundred and sixty acres for every adult, free. (See cut.) These lands are also reached by the St. John's and Lake Eustis Railroad, running through the county from Astor on the St. John's River, a few miles above Lake George, to Fort Mason (Lake Eustis). The Company have in contemplation the extending of this road to Apopka City, Orange County; also to Leesburgh, Sumpter County. Running southeast from Fort Mason is a good wagon road and telegraph line ten miles to the enterprising town of Sorrento, where may be found the United States district land office and deputy clerk, who is ever willing to show the United States lands and give other information to those that may require his services. Here is also found a good hotel for *transient* and *winter* boarders.

CLIMATE AND HEALTHFULNESS OF FLORIDA.

The Florida winter resembles very much that which in the Middle States is termed "Indian Summer," except that the sky is perfectly clear and the atmosphere more dry and elastic. Rain rarely falls during the winter months; three, four, and not unfrequently five weeks of bright, clear and cloudless days occur continuously. This is one of the greatest charms of the winter climate in Florida. Contrary to what might be expected, the summer weather is much more agreeable, and its heat less oppressive (though its duration is longer) than that which is experienced in the Northern States. This is attributable, in a great measure, to its peninsula position, the northeast tradewinds playing over the whole peninsula. The summer nights are cool, and even the hottest days are seldom oppressive in the shade. The highest winter temperature observed anywhere on the main land of the United States, was at Fort Dallas on the Miami river, and at New Smyrna, some miles north of it, both on the east coast of Florida. During four years that the official record of the temperature was kept, the highest point reached by the mercury was 95° , the lowest 35° : a range therefore, of 60° in four years. The healthfulness of Florida is one of its chief characteristics, and its sanative influences are so well recognized that it has become an asylum for invalids from all parts of the country.

Nowhere in the State do we meet, among the

native population, or those who have resided in the State for a length of time, those violent forms of disease which are met with in all the other States. It is true, we see the consumptive, the rheumatic, the dyspeptic, and the debilitated, but in almost every instance they are strangers to the soil, and have sought the State to bask in its sunshine, and drink in the life giving influences with which its air is laden.

There is no better climate in the world for consumptives. The quantity of rain which falls in the State during three months of the year is large. These months are July, August and September, and embrace entirely what is known as the "rainy season." Some years the rainfall is very slight, and is no more noticeable to a stranger than the rainfall in more northern latitudes. But rarely does the heaviest rain interfere with the crops, and the period of greatest moisture occurring at midsummer, is, in conjunction with the soil, the great secret of the wonderful fertility and exuberance of vegetable life in the State.

ADVICE.

In seeking a location for health beware of the low lands. Push back into the interior among the hills and open pine woodlands and breathe in its life giving elixer. Orange County excels all others in the State for healthfulness.

FLORIDA WINTER.

BY MRS. JENNIE S. PERKINS.

O, winter, beautiful and bright,
 I breathe thy warm delicious air,
 And watch the splendors of the night,
 Where all around is gay and fair.

I roam as in a waking dream,
 The garden of Hesperides,
 And see the golden fruitage gleam
 Amid the stately orange trees.

Unfading green is on the hill,
 The vales are decked with countless flowers,
 While hums the bee and song bird trills
 Sweet music through the sunny hours.

The moss is waving in the gale.
 From live oak, hickory and pine,
 And draping like a bridal veil
 The beauteous yellow jessamine.

Whose trumpets with their rich perfume
 Like censers swing around my head—
 Where the dense hummock's growth and bloom
 Their dark bewild'ring richness spread.

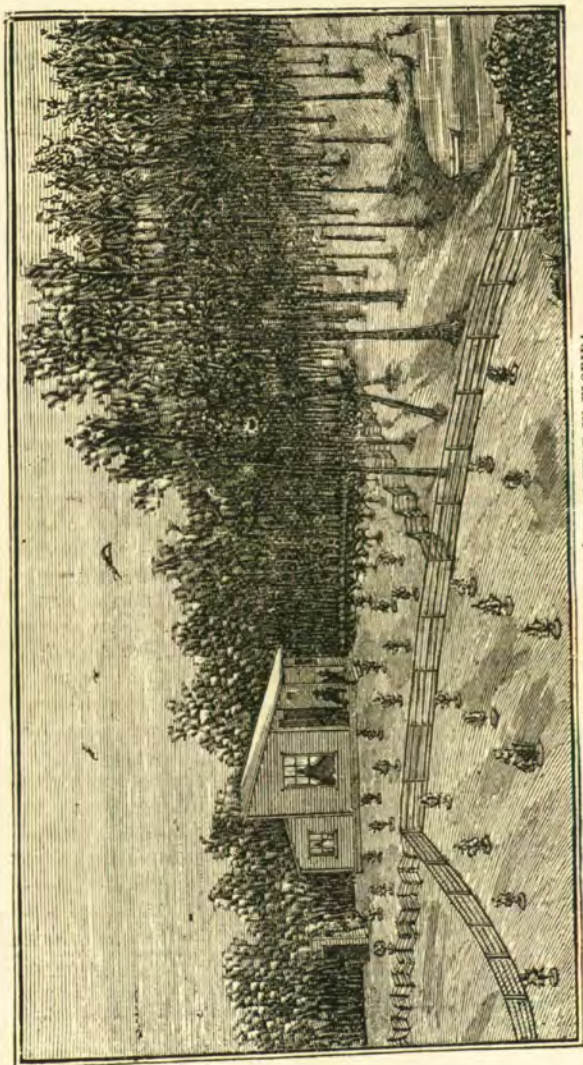
Through countless vistas in the wood
 I see the windows of the morn,
 Ope to the world a glowing flood
 Of glory when the day is born.

And when with robes of Tyrian dye
 The evening comes when day is done,
 I see around the radiant sky
 A hundred sunsets blent in one.

I walk upon enchanted ground,
 Where fiction changes into truth,
 For hoary winter here hath found
 "The fountain of eternal youth."

O, Florida, romantic land,
 Enraptured, I thy praises sing,
 For nature smiles on every hand,
 And winter is as fair as spring.





HOMESTEAD SETTLERS' FIRST YEAR IN FLORIDA

On the opposite page will be seen view of Mr. Redding and family, seated on the veranda, resting from the pleasant and profitable occupation of orange and other fruit culture, all contented and happy in their new home, two and one-half miles from Sorrento, Orange Co., prizing it one thousand per cent. superior to living in New York city, their home for six years, before seeking this delightful retreat.

HOW TO GET AN ORANGE GROVE.

The question is often asked, How can I get an orange grove without labor and trouble to myself? Answer: Many are doing it by contracting with men engaged in the business. The first item is the cost of land. Say one acre for a grove of fifty trees, at from \$15 to \$25. Then the clearing of the same at about the same price. Next, fencing, clearing, (trees and setting out), day labor for man attending grove, from \$1 to \$1.50 per day, then further incidental expenses for the cultivation of the trees until brought into bearing, all amounting, oftentimes, to \$20 and \$25 per tree up to the time they bloom, which is considered the first year of bearing.

To avoid the complication and annoyance oftentimes arising from a misunderstanding in regard to incidental expenses by the person paying for the grove, which oftentimes causes a postponement and abandonment of the enterprise on account of what seems to be an extortion to the owner, the writer, after thorough investigation and advice as to the probable cost

of each tree brought into bearing, has adopted the following plan, which is universally received as the best ever offered to the public, accommodating itself, as it does, to those of large and small capital

PLAN.

The planting out a grove of 1,000 trees and selling them at \$15 each, allowing those who wish to invest to take as many trees as they choose and pay \$5 down and \$5 yearly for two years. Upon the receipt of the last payment by the writer, a title will be given for the tree or trees, including the land upon which said trees stand, they being set thirty feet apart. The writer agrees to fetch the trees into the second year of bearing, when his contract ends for the \$15 per tree; but he further agrees to attend to the further cultivation of said trees for one-tenth of the fruit raised from year to year, the owner paying cost for picking, boxing and shipping, of his own share of the fruit.

The orchard rows, running north and south, east and west, commence to number at the north-east corner of the grove, running south. Each purchaser of trees will have placed upon those belonging to him or her, held by copper wire, a German silver tag with name stamped into it; also the number of tree or trees bought; also at the time of purchase will receive an agreement covering the above points. The writer, being interested in the orchard, will at all times have the same care for it as for his own grove, situated on another part of his homestead.

FRUITS OF FLORIDA.

No other State can present such an extensive list of fruits capable of being grown within its limits. The following is a partial list of the same: Oranges and lemons of all kinds, limes, citron, mango, shaddock, paw-paw, figs, peaches, nectarines, bananas, plantains, pine apples, pom-egranates, guavas, grapes, also English walnuts, pecans, Italian chestnuts, and the great staples cotton, sugar, corn and tobacco.

The soil and climate of Orange County, being admirably adapted to the growth of all the sub-tropical fruits and staples, we append brief descriptions of a few of the most important, for the benefit of those cultivating their own groves.

THE FIG.

There is no tropical fruit that requires as little care in its culture, as the fig. It is propagated from cuttings, and bears profusely the second year. Plant the cuttings in the open field about ten feet apart, and keep them pruned so as to concentrate the sap and confine it to one stalk. About 400 trees may thus be planted to the acre, which will yield at least two bushels of fruit each. The method of drying, as pursued in the south of France and in Turkey, is as follows: The figs are shaken from the tree every morning and put into baskets. They are then placed in a caustic solution, made from wood ashes, and brought almost to boiling point, in which they are allowed to remain for about fifteen minutes. This is done to soften the

skin, destroy the bitter sap, and tends to preserve the fruit from decay. When taken from the lye bath they are washed in pure cold water and dried in the sun. After three days they are pressed and packed into drums or boxes. The fruit is sometimes dried artificially, and, it is said, with more safety than in the sun.

THE GUAVA.

The guava is another fruit requiring little or no attention, as it is of a very hard nature, growing well on all soils. When raised from cuttings, it begins to bear the second year, and is wonderfully productive. Its fruit ripens in September and October, and is a bright yellow, in shape and size resembling a small quince, and is filled with a rich sub-acid pulp, containing many small, hard seeds like grape stones. From the fruit is manufactured the famous guava jelly of commerce. It is also excellent for stewing, preserving and making pies, as well as very wholesome and grateful when eaten raw.

THE PINE APPLE.

The cultivation of this fruit is beginning to attract much attention. It is propagated most successfully from the crown of the leaves and from suckers. It requires a good, rich, loamy soil, with an abundance of water and moisture when in a growing state. When ripening, it requires less water. Plant in rows two feet and a half apart, and fifteen inches in the row. This will give 14,112 plants to the acre, and the same amount in fruit.

THE BANANA.

This fruit is propagated from suckers. It requires a very rich soil, with considerable moisture, and bears fruit in from eighteen months to two years after planting. The plants are set in rows six feet apart, one way, by three feet the other, and 2,450 plants are required for an acre. Each stalk should bear one bunch of fruit. As soon as the fruit is gathered, the old stalk should be cut away, to make room for the numerous suckers starting up from the old root, each of which bears fruit in turn.

THE GRAPE.

All the native varieties, such as the Delaware, the Catawba, the Diana, the Isabella, and the Scuppernong, thrive luxuriantly, and the fruitage to the acre being as large as is known anywhere. The choicest varieties for culture here are said to be the Concord, the Diana, the Delaware, and the Scuppernong. Many of the foreign varieties will doubtless thrive, but with what degree of success is as yet a matter of experiment.

The lemon, lime, citron, shaddock, and all varieties of the Citrus family, are grown as readily as the orange, and may be cultivated with great profit, especially the lemon, the general culture of which is the same as for the orange.

CORN.

This crop is here, as elsewhere, of the first importance. It is planted in February, and requires even less care than at the North. On

hummock land the yield is from forty to sixty bushels per acre, but on the pine lands it is from ten to twenty bushels.

SWEET POTATOES.

In Florida this crop is second in importance only to corn. They are grown in great abundance and yield heavily. They are grown principally from draw planting, and are allowed to remain in the ground until wanted for home consumption or market. Fifty to one hundred bushels to the acre is a common yield. They are ready for shipping to the Northern market at least a month earlier than from any other section.

The fruit and vegetable business from Florida to Northern and Western cities has grown from about 25,000 boxes in 1874 to 950,000 in 1880.

SUGAR CANE.

The sugar lands of Florida produce immense crops, the great length of the summer admitting the cane to reach its full maturity, while in Louisiana the early frosts check its growth, and materially lessen the yield. Where frost occurs, the cane has to be replanted each year, but an exemption from it allows the process of reproduction, known as ratooning, so that one planting suffices for from five to ten years. From 2,000 to 4,000 pounds of sugar and from 100 to 300 gallons of syrup are commonly produced on an acre.

COTTON.

Both the long and short staple varieties are grown. Cotton is planted in February, and the

gathering commences in September, lasting throughout the remainder of the year. There has been comparatively but little attention paid to this crop since the war. The short staple is most commonly grown, and yields from 200 to 450 pounds of ginned cotton per acre. The long staple yields from 100 to 250 pounds per acre. This variety always commands a higher price, although more care is required in preparing it for the market.

TOBACCO.

Before the war, thousands of cases were raised annually, and it may be claimed as one of the chief staples of the State, although its culture of late years has not kept pace with other products. Nowhere can it be grown with more success, and it is a matter of surprise that so little of it is cultivated. From one to two thousand pounds is a common yield per acre, and there is no doubt that, by careful attention, Florida tobacco will rival that from any other State.

Vegetables of all sorts grow luxuriantly, and may be had every month in the year. Oats are a certain crop. Peanuts are grown successfully, giving a yield of from 50 to 100 bushels per acre. Indigo, Castor Oil Beans, Jute, Ramie, Sisal Hemp, will all thrive, and require only moderate care.

UPLAND RICE

is now being grown successfully throughout the State, the profit of its culture exceeding the wheat crop of the West and Northwest,

the crop of 1880 being contracted for in advance of harvesting, at \$1.15 per bushel. So sanguine are capitalists that Rice will excel all other field crops that many are turning their attention to the erection of mills for cleaning it for market. Two are building in Jacksonville at the present time.

Experiments are also being tried in different sections of the State in the culture of many foreign productions. Coffee succeeds in South Florida, and will without doubt after a few years become a staple, as will also the tea plant, and in fact, with care, energy, and skill, with further help from the Government there is no reason why there should not be grown here, a large percent. of all that is grown in tropical countries.

CONCLUSION.

The writer regrets that, for lack of space in this little book, he is unable to give descriptions of many other industries springing up all over the State, such as the manufacture of lumber, rosin, turpentine and paper from the hitherto much despised Palmetto trees; also the best of starch from the Casava root, and scores of others, where capital, with energy and skill employed, will yield large returns to those investing.

Also to give a detailed account of the many railroads now building in the State, which are all in healthy condition, with plenty of capital to back them to completion. The objective points of the most important of them being

Tampa and Charlotte Harbors on the gulf side of the Peninsula, these points being only 90 to 100 miles from Havana, Cuba, and important shipping points of Florida beebes, which are raised extensively on the cattle ranges of the lower counties of the State.

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