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LEON COUNTY,  
FLORIDA.

A DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET, PORTRAYING

*The Advantages of the Beautifully Picturesque and Rich Agricultural Region, known as*

“The Tallahassee Country or Piedmont Florida,”

TO

TOURISTS, SPORTSMEN, INVALIDS,

FARMERS,

TRUCK-MEN, FRUIT-GROWERS, DAIRY-MEN AND OTHERS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA.:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE FLORIDIAN.

1881.





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A DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET.

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PUBLISHED FOR GENERAL CIRCULATION,

BY THE

LEON COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

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M. J. J. Griffin

2 Apr '02

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# LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA.

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## I. INTRODUCTORY.

The intending settler in Florida naturally desires, before leaving his present home, to fix upon some objective point in the State whose attractions shall, so far as he can judge from a distance, outweigh those of other localities. To this end he generally sets to work to procure the largest possible supply of information concerning the different sections of the State, and, after weighing and considering all, he chooses the locality which appears most likely to suit his purposes, preferences, means and condition, before beginning his pilgrimage in search of a new home.

The object of this pamphlet being to induce those who peruse it with such intentions to select Leon county as the one which they may expect to find most likely to fulfill the requisite conditions, its contents have been carefully compiled from a series of articles prepared expressly for the purpose, at the instance of the Leon County Farmers' Club, by citizens of the county, each specially selected with a view to his peculiar knowledge of the particular subject assigned him.

## II. HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

Messrs. Lee and Simmons were the Commissioners appointed in 1821 by the United States to locate the seat of government of the Territory of Florida, which had been ceded by Spain to the United States in the year 1820. They were men of intelligence, and after an examination of Florida from the Perdido river on the west, to the St. Marys river on the east, selected Leon county as being the most fertile and beautiful part of the Territory for that purpose, and laid the foundation of the town where it now stands, on the sloping summits of a series of high hills. To this, the future seat of government, they gave the euphonious Indian name of "Tallahassee." The surrounding country was emphatically one of much beauty, and the first section of the Territory to attract the attention of the early settlers from the States. It began to be filled up by a class of citizens of energy and enterprise, and some of large means, chiefly from North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland, when, without the aid of railroads, it required much resolution in men and women to face the terrors of a journey of several hundred miles, a part of the distance being from the Ocmulgee to Tallahassee, nearly two hundred miles, with nothing but a dim trail to pursue, and without any population.

Leon county should have a bright future before her when we regard her past history. The culture and refinement of her citizens has long been well known and generally acknowledged. She has given to the State a long list of distinguished public men, including eight Governors. The general appearance of the country is attractive in the extreme. The common idea of Florida, with those who have never seen this portion of it or studied its topography carefully, is that it is composed of a succession of barren wastes of sand, interspersed with impenetrable swamps. This arises from the fact that a very large majority of those who have visited and described the State have seen only portions of it, and have no conception whatever of the existence of

such a region as Middle Florida, which is as different from other sections in its physical appearance and characteristics as Massachusetts is different from Louisiana.

The northern tier of counties comprising Middle Florida and embracing all that portion of the State lying between the Suwannee river on the east and the Apalachicola river on the west, and between the Georgia line on the north and the Gulf coast on the south, is about one hundred and fifty miles in length, east and west, and varying in width from forty to ninety miles, north and south.

The topography of the country included in the above boundaries is exceedingly varied and interesting. Along the Gulf coast the surface consists of almost continuous marshes and swamps, not deleterious to health, being salt, but forbidding residence and cultivation within some miles of the Gulf waters. Next come low table lands covered with pine and cypress forests, and known as "the flat woods," and "the piney woods." These extend to the foot of the hills, which form the third level of elevation, and, beginning from twelve to twenty miles back from the coast, rise in successive gently undulating elevations to the height of nearly three hundred feet above the level of the sea. These hills, with the broad, fertile valleys which lie between them and the high table lands which extend northward into Georgia, were originally, and are yet partially covered with a magnificent growth of live-oak, pine, red bay or Florida mahogany, magnolia, water-oak, hickory, black-oak, white-oak, and other hard woods, and are interspersed with numerous water-courses, lakes and ponds of pure fresh water. The Jacksonville, Pensacola and Mobile Railroad, extending with its connections from Savannah and Jacksonville to the Apalachicola river, passes through the several counties of Middle Florida, with a branch from Tallahassee to the port of St. Marks, in Wakulla county, a distance of twenty-two miles; the latter place being situated some seven or eight miles from the Gulf on a beautiful and navigable river of the same name, and having an excellent harbor, custom-house, and quite an extensive trade in fish, oysters and sponges, taken from points along the coast. A staunch steamship makes regular voyages between St. Marks and New Orleans. A light house of the second class stands at the mouth of the river.

There are a number of towns, villages and settlements scattered about the county, chief of which are Micosukie, near the lake of that name, in the eastern part of the county; Centreville, twelve miles north of Tallahassee, near the centre of the county, and Lamonia, near the lake of that name, in the northern part of the county. Bradfordville, ten miles from Tallahassee, is a most attractive and flourishing little place.

The famous Wakulla Spring is about sixteen miles from Tallahassee, in a south-westerly direction; and this, with the wonderful St. Marks river, with the numerous mineral springs abounding along its banks, and its Natural Bridge twelve miles from Tallahassee, the several lakes, the old city of St. Marks, with its ancient Spanish fort, the old United States Armory and Barracks at Chattahoochee, now used as a State Insane Asylum, and many other places of interest in the vicinity, offer charming inducements to the Winter visitor in the way of sight-seeing excursions.

The country above described has been called by a brilliant and delightful writer "The Tallahassee Country, or Piedmont Florida," and his descriptions are so truthful and pleasant that we cannot do better than to quote what he says. He thus describes the view westward from the high hill on which the City of Tallahassee is situated:

Toward every side the hills swelled up, colored with colors that suggested fertility and abundance; their rounded brows, their slopes, the valleys between them were full of green crops; comfortable homesteads and farm buildings reposed in the distance, each cluster of which had its own protecting grove of oaks standing about it in the benignant attitudes of outer *larcs* and *penates*; it was that sort of prospect which the grave old English writers would have called "goodlye, pleasunt and smy-



lynge." These hills carried with them no associations of hills. They did not in the least suggest agitations or upheavals. They only seemed to be great level uplands, distended like udders with a bounteous richness almost too large for their content. And this indeed has always been the tone of things—not only of the hills, but of the social life in Tallahassee.

Of the many beautiful lakes the same writer says :

Lake LaFayette—so called from its situation on the estate granted to the Marquis de LaFayette by the United States—Lake Jackson, Lake Bradford, Lake Miccosukie and Lake Iamonia, (pronounced with the I long and the accent on the antepenult,) [all in Leon county,] all form charming objective points for excursions, and offer substantial results of fine fish, as well as lovely views by way of invitations. Wild duck, Brent and geese are also found, often in great numbers. \* \* \* \* The environment of these lakes is varied and beautiful. The hills surround them with gently receding curves, now with bolder bluffs, now with terraces rising one above another to the height of a hundred feet in all: many growths of great, glossy-leaved magnolias, of water-oaks and live-oaks, of hickory, ash, wild cherry and mock orange, glorify the shores; and between and around and over these hang the clematis, the woodbine, the wild grape vines.

Another writer thus describes one of the largest and most beautiful of these lakes :

Miccosukie lake, nineteen miles northeast of Tallahassee, is about fifteen miles in length, and from three-fourths of a mile to four miles in width. It has two main sources or heads—the one coming from Thomas county, Georgia, northwest of the lake, where Ward's creek, passing through a succession of wide, flat ponds, finds its way into the lake at its widest part, and the other where on the west Dry creek empties into what is known as the head of the lake. It widens from this point gradually for half a mile, where it is three-quarters of a mile wide, and forms on the southern side a basin, circular in form and very deep, say from seventy to one hundred feet, while the northern side is shallow and continues to widen until it reaches the confluence of Ward's creek, where the lake is full four miles wide. Around three-fourths of the extent of this basin (the other fourth being open and continuous with the lake) stands a most beautiful and magnificent growth of trees, among which may be seen the walnut, red bay or Florida mahogany, the tall and graceful ash, the red, white, water, Spanish and live oak, the beech, the wild cherry, the olive or mock orange, the hickory, and last the stately magnolia—towering above all—a thing of beauty at all seasons, covered as it is at all times with a rich foliage of large, dark green, shining leaves from eight to twelve inches in length, and in May, June and July, loading the atmosphere with the delicate perfume of its large white flowers, which expand to the diameter of eight inches or more. Some of these beautiful trees are festooned with wild grape vines, others with clematis, yellow jasmine, woodbine and trumpet flowers, while at their roots may be seen the *sanguinaria canadensis*, the spigelia, turkey-berry, daises, primroses, violets, and other unnamed but delicate and pretty little flowers peeping out from among a variety of grasses, which send up their bolder, artificial-looking blooms, stiffly and singly. The growth is not fully described till we mention, as between these towering trees and the modest flowers at their feet, the shrubbery *in medio*; the sparkle berry with its beautiful white drooping bells, the wild plum with its feathery bloom, the dog-wood with its staring white blossoms, the red-bud and the old man's beard with its long white fringe. The long, sombre-looking gray moss, which is pendant from every limb, without detracting from the beauty, serves to tone down the otherwise gay and brilliant appearance of the scene, and renders it, if possible, even more attractive. The banks on which this most beautiful and variegated growth is found are precipitous and high, at some points rising from the water's edge as boldly and precipitously as a rock to the height of from ten to forty feet, at others looking as if they had been graded, one grade rising above another to the height of one hundred feet. \* \* \* \* Few more romantic spots are to be found anywhere than "The Bluff" of Miccosukie. Above, beneath, and all around is beautiful. \* \* \* \* In Winter innumerable flocks of wild ducks, Brent, and sometimes geese, sport upon the broad bosom of the lake, while in Summer its surface, where shallow, is covered by maiden cane, flags and bonnets, with their broad white flowers, from eight to ten inches in diameter, floating on the water. Corn and cotton fields of large dimensions and unsurpassed fertility surround it on every side, all elevated, forming high hills "with gentle slopes and groves between."

So Micosukie lake, whether you view it as a sheet of water or turn your gaze upon the beauty and loveliness of its banks, or with a more utilitarian intent, survey its surrounding lands, challenges your admiration and justly claims a favorable notice.

The foregoing description would be incomplete without the following extracts from Mr. George M. Barbour's charming new book, "Florida for Tourists, Invalids and Settlers," just issued from the press of D. Appleton & Co., New York :

Tallahassee, the Capital of the State, "the floral city of the flowery South," is one of the loveliest places in all America. It is built upon the broad, gently rolling surface of a high hill, surrounded on all sides by other lovely hills and deep valleys, for it is in a region of hills, valleys and lakes. It is laid out in squares, with Main (Monroe) street—which is its principal business street—lined mostly on one side with plain, old-fashioned brick stores for a distance of four blocks. This street is fairly level and wide. All the other streets are charmingly irregular and uneven—in fact many are quite declivitous—and are lined with grand, old mammoth-sized magnolias, live-oaks and other magnificent shade trees. Broad, roomy, open squares are frequent, all shady, park-like and inviting. At one end of the city stands the State-house, a large and very plain brick structure, painted a light color; with a front and rear portico, having each six great, two-story columns. It stands in a spacious square on the crest of the hill, and can be seen from a long distance. The grounds are laid out with winding paths and lawns, shaded by grand old magnolias, oaks, and the like, and the air is redolent with perfume from the many flowers always blooming there. It is an unpretentious old city, with an air of village-like simplicity; no factories (except one cotton-mill); all is quiet, country life. The residence-avenues are mostly lined with cozy little cottages, and comfortable, roomy, substantial mansions of the good old style of architecture, and all are surrounded by neatly fenced lawns and gardens, almost all having quite ample grounds, well kept—and flowers, flowers, flowers! Everywhere, in the greatest abundance, are flowers. A most creditable pride in their lovely home grounds is exhibited by the citizens, who seem to have a friendly rivalry in these beautiful ornaments of nature, that is expressive of culture and a fine taste for the beautiful. Tallahassee is truly a "floral city." The suburbs are everywhere lovely, and the views from the streets or house-tops—especially the roof of the State-house—are exceedingly fine. The surrounding country is a vast range of hills, valleys, brooks, lakes, park-like clusters of large trees, broad, well-cultivated fields, large plantation dwellings and cotton-gins, and distant forests—in all, a remarkably beautiful natural panorama of nature, such as is seen nowhere else in Florida. Here we remained several delightful days at the quaint, old, tavern-like "City Hotel," enjoying numerous drives about the surrounding country. One beautiful day I rode out to "Goodwood," the grand old estate of Major Arvah Hopkins, several miles out of town. This residence was well worth visiting, because it was a striking evidence of how elegantly the old-time planters enjoyed life. Erected in 1844, it comprises numerous buildings, ranged around a large square in the rear, used for laundry, cook-house, milk-house, saddle and harness-house, etc., etc.; and the spacious surrounding grounds are laid out in park-like style, with paths, lawns and innumerable strange plants, ferns and flowers. Another day a party of us went on a trip to Lake Jackson, a large and long lake, six miles from the city. It closely resembles Cayuga lake in New York, surrounded by high bluffs, all cleared, and everywhere the broad fields reaching down to the water's edge. \* \* \* \* The people of Tallahassee have a beautiful custom of holding a fair, each Spring, that probably differs from anything in the way of the fair exhibitions held elsewhere in the South. It is a floral fair, held at their spacious fair-grounds, open to all, but of course nearly or quite all the exhibits are made by the Tallahasseans. The exhibits are vegetables, fruits and flowers, especially flowers. As might be conjectured, the managers, exhibitors and patrons generally, are the ladies, who take great interest and pride in this exhibition, so distinctively local, so pleasant, and so indicative of refined taste and culture. I attended the fair of 1880, held in March. Floral Hall was a beautiful sight, with a profuse display of flowers of all varieties, kinds, forms, colors, and perfumes, all artistically arranged, and exhibited to the best advantage. Nowhere, it may be said in conclusion, is there a more refined and cultivated society than in Tallahassee. Among them are many descendants of the most prominent and aristocratic old families of America, with names that recall old colonial, revolutionary and 1812 days in the battle-fields and in State councils; and their large, well-attended schools, numerous handsome churches, beautiful homes and surroundings, all attest to the high standard of the best society of Tallahassee.

## III. CLIMATE AND HEALTHFULNESS.

A venerable physician, who has resided in Leon county for over fifty years, bears the following testimony to its healthfulness :

In regard to the climate I will say, after fifty-two years' residence in it, and comparing it with other climates in other latitudes, that it is in many respects superior to most others in the United States. I have observed the thermometer closely during the present Summer, which is admitted to have been an exceptionally warm one, and the mercury has only indicated ninety-six degrees, but has ranged up to ninety-one degrees frequently. With the heat we have uniformly pleasant and constant breezes from the Gulf, so that we get accustomed to the warmth and do not regard it. The diseases of the country are few, and rarely fatal. The word "malaria" conveys the source of three-fourths of our troubles in that regard. Our chief diseases are intermittents (chill and fever), remittents (bilious fever), and typho-malarial, a low, slow form of fever, often lasting many days. Formerly there was the congestive or pernicious fever, which is now very rare. But science has taught us this in regard to the hidden foe, malaria, of which so little is really known, that heat causes it to ascend in the day, and when the atmosphere cools at night it again seeks the level of the earth. By avoiding night air we in a great degree avoid malaria.

All other diseases are mild and manageable. Pneumonia is rarely seen amongst "well-to-do" people, and is hardly ever fatal; but it must be said that with the negro race it is exactly the reverse. They are seriously affected by it in Winter. This is because of the peculiarities of their constitution, and owing to their utterly ignoring all the laws and rules of health. They are too often badly clothed and housed. Other diseases I shall name, such as scarlet fever, which is rare, and never epidemic, measles, whooping-cough, croup, which is very rare and never fatal; all of which are very mild and require little treatment. As an evidence of this I will state that in Tallahassee, surrounded by a dense population, there are now only three physicians. They attend to all the practice of the town and a radius of several miles around it. Consumption, that most fearful of diseases, sometimes appears in the county, but there must be strong hereditary predisposition to develop it, and any case of it brought here, if early in the disease, is always greatly ameliorated or cured. I will give one case, which is a type of many others, in illustration. In 1826 a young man (Mr. William Wilson) came out to Tallahassee from Vermont far advanced in consumption. He was pale and emaciated and stooping in his gait, with constant cough, profuse expectoration and night-sweats. But he was a great walker, and drank a little whiskey. He taught a small school, and as his health improved he started in 1828 the *Floridian* newspaper, of which, in his own language, he was "sole editor and proprietor." He got rid of his cough, increased his weight to about two hundred pounds, became as "rough and rugged as a bear," enjoyed a good respite for about twenty years, and finally died in New York of dissipation.

We have known many such cases as bad as this in Leon county, and consumption is curable by climate, and by climate only. I believe it to be a most eligible locality for the cure of this disease, for the following reasons: There are two conditions necessary for the relief and cure of this disease, viz: temperature and elevation. Here the thermometer never reaches one hundred degrees to produce relaxation and enervation, and the breeze from the Gulf, only twenty or twenty-five miles distant, combined with the resinous atmosphere of the pine country through which it passes, all exert a healing influence on the lungs. Then the elevation of the country, being about two hundred feet above the level of the sea, gives it a comparative dryness of atmosphere, which is thought to be so important in consumption.

The drinking water of the country is perfectly pure and free from any admixture of calcareous matter or iron; though there are many strong chalybeate springs to be found. Free-stone springs abound, and wells of from twenty to forty feet in depth yield an unfailling supply of excellent soft water.

## IV. ATTRACTIONS PRESENTED TO IMMIGRANTS.

The following pages on this subject have been contributed by several actual settlers who have recently come into the county. The first says:

To one who has been reared in the northern or western portions of the United States, with the alternating excesses of severe cold in Winter and parching heat in Summer, the enjoyments of the mild and genial climate of Florida are a constant suc-

cession of delightful surprises, whose benign influences are rather multiplied than diminished with each additional year's experience. Instead of the cold, wet Spring of February, March and April, to which he has been accustomed, with its disagreeable routine of discomforts, not to mention its agricultural disasters of late frosts, its weeks of roads "hub-deep" in mud, its boggy fields impassable for man or beast, and its succession of "bad colds," too often developing into the most insidious and dangerous pulmonary diseases, he finds here in February the warmth and comfort of a northern April, with only an occasional "March wind" or cold rain; in March, the airy, balmy weather of a northern May, and in April the fullness of forest foliage and luxuriance of vegetation of a northern June. In May, and generally until the middle of June, there is some dry weather with hot sunshine, causing the only approach to an "unhealthy season" in the entire year, and this consists of a tendency to biliousness and "Spring fever," with possibly a chill or two, easily prevented by careful diet and proper sanitary precautions. In June the Summer rains begin, consisting of an almost daily shower, with daily breezes right from the salt water of the Gulf, lasting from early morning to eleven or twelve o'clock, from one or two o'clock to seven, and from eight o'clock during the entire night. Nowhere, North or South, (embracing a residence South of some sixteen years,) has the writer ever experienced such refreshing rest at night in Summer as here. "The "rainy season" lasts through the Summer, and however hot the rays of the sun may be, *the air is always cool, and almost always in motion.* In September or October there is almost always a dry spell during which the crops of corn and cotton, potatoes, etc., are gathered. November corresponds to the "Indian Summer" of higher latitudes, and December and January constitute the Winter. During December the cool, bright, dry, bracing weather, common in October and the early part of November in the North, afford ample opportunity for the heavy farm and garden work of the year—the preparation of the soil for Winter gardening and next year's crops, fencing, etc.—besides being the finest season for field sports among the abundant and various kinds of game which overrun the country. After a residence of several years each in Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, in the North, and Tennessee, Georgia and Florida in the South, besides much travel in every other Southern State except Texas, the writer unhesitatingly asserts as a fact, that the climate of Middle Florida is the most unquestionably delightful climate "for Summer wear" in the Union. Indeed, scarcely any one who has ever experienced it can understand how it is possible in this latitude for the days and nights, week after week, throughout the whole Summer, to be so cool and bracing and uniform in temperature, and so delightfully free from those frequent stinging and oppressive spells which are familiar to the residents of higher latitudes during the "dog-days." There is another feature of the climate, of far more importance, especially in this latitude, than the mere question of personal comfort; that is, the yellow fever cannot exist here. Diligent inquiry develops the fact that the latest and only well-defined cases which ever occurred here were in 1841, and then there were but a few sporadic cases. When it visits, (as it sometimes does,) the sea-board towns, their inhabitants are accustomed, literally, to "flee to the mountains" of Middle Florida for refuge and safety.

The character of the people among whom he expects to make his future home is one of the first subjects to which the expectant settler directs his attention, and is, perhaps, the most important consideration that may present itself. The aspect in which the citizens of Leon county may appear to him who anticipates becoming one of them, is the only one with which we are now concerned, and it may truly be said of them that their equals are hard to find. They welcome the stranger with open arms and hospitable hearts, well knowing that upon the "infusion of new blood" and the introduction of new forces and new methods depend the entire future welfare of their magnificent country. They gladly learn all they can from those accustomed to other and perhaps better modes of agriculture; and so far as their social behavior toward immigrants and new-comers is concerned, so anxious have they been to encourage immigration and make the new settler feel at home that they have often failed to discriminate between worthy and unworthy objects of their generous attention, and have taken to their confidence and companionship many who proved themselves unworthy of them, simply because they were strangers and possible new citizens, until it now seems strange that they can feel a welcome toward any.

Let no intending settler be fearful of failing to find a hearty welcome, not only from the new settlers already resident, but from those of the older citizens whose welcome would be desirable.

The school facilities in the county are good, as good in most respects as in any

county of like population in a northern or western State, and in some respects superior. Besides the system of common schools, which is well-established, the West Florida Seminary is located at Tallahassee. It is liberally endowed by a large grant of public land, and is under the management of a Board of Trustees appointed from different counties. It is authorized to confer degrees, and is under the care of an efficient corps of instructors. It has both male and female departments, and a primary department which is under the supervision of the County School Board. The male department has just been organized as a military school, with an instructor in tactics, &c.

The church privileges are extensive and varied. Throughout the county are stationed a number of local ministers of different denominations; and in Tallahassee there are many handsome church buildings—Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic, besides the numerous "colored" churches.

The trades are well represented, but good workmen can almost always find employment in any trade. Manufacturing interests are as yet not large. There is a small cotton factory at Tallahassee, also a planing mill and a tannery, besides cabinet and wagon-makers' shops. Saw mills and grist mills are to be found in different sections of the county. Lumber is worth from \$12 to \$17 per thousand; brick from \$5 to \$8 per thousand; shingles from \$2 to \$3 per thousand; lime from \$1 to \$2.50 per barrel.

Another recent settler says :

The climate is the most delightful in our country; land is cheap, and the owners of large properties are willing to sell. Northern people are treated courteously, and sometimes better than they deserve. It is strange what notions some northern people have of the state of society here! Some even ask if a man is "safe" here. The feeling of the people is decidedly friendly and favorable to northern immigration, and you might live here for years without knowing your neighbor's politics. We have many northern families here, and they mingle and associate with the natives, and are visited in turn as freely and friendly as if they had never lived in any other State. If you value good soil, climate, markets, schools, churches, railroads, navigation, fruits and fish, oysters, crabs, wild fowl in profusion, and all other game, don't fail to visit Leon county before you buy a home for your family. You will find a welcome whether you come from the North, East or West. Our lands here are mostly cleared and ready for the plow. You can cultivate the soil and plant something for family use or sale any day in the year.

And another furnishes, from experience and observation, the following excellent and practical hints and advice :

1st. Be sure to bring a good supply of endurance and staying qualities. The second year in a new home is generally the trying one. If you make a wise selection of location and land, and reasonable improvements on your place for three years, you could not be *dragged away* from Florida.

2d. Bring as much cash as would be necessary to make a start in the West. By all means, do not pay all your money out for land. Buy no land to speculate on, and no more than you can make a good use of.

3d. By all means bring others with you. Come in colonies; if not more, three families will do.

4th. As to teams, don't over-do in this matter. Horses and mules are about as cheap here as with you. One good horse—or a mule is better—is sufficient work-stock for a thirty-acre farm. Don't bring any wagons or buggies. Ours here are the "wide-tread." If you have first rate brood-mares, bring them. You can go into the business of colt- or mule-raising, which will pay.

5th. Good milch-cows, Jerseys, or those especially noted for the production of butter, will pay to bring.

6th. Bring a few good stock-sheep. We would recommend the Spanish Merino, wool being the object, and our pastures more suitable for them. We can obtain good stock hogs and poultry here.

7th. I would not advise the bringing of many farm tools or machinery; can make or order such as you will need, other than we already have.

8th. In seeds, plants and trees we can get most of those we want here as cheap as elsewhere.

9th. If you hire a car, bring all the flour, bacon or pork you can. It will sell readily, if you have any to spare.

10th. Bring all your clothing, heavy and light; it will all be useful.

11th. Don't pay freight on furniture, except it be good cook-stoves.

## V. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIONS.

A practical farmer of many years' experience contributes the following excellent article concerning the agricultural productions of the county :

Leon county is naturally and practically an agricultural country. The soil of the northern portion of the county is composed of sand, with a red clay sub-soil from twelve to twenty-four inches below the surface, with the growth of the yellow pine, interspersed with some oak and hickory, which may be termed a high order of pine land. The central portion is largely composed of vegetable mold, with sand and a rich, red clay sub-soil from six to twelve inches below the surface. Portions of this section are quite elevated, and the surface undulating, in which clay largely predominates, and is termed a clay loam or red hammock land; other portions of this section are less rolling, somewhat a table land, and is composed of a black soil intermixed with fine sand and clay, and is termed a sandy loam or gray hammock. These latter are very rich and productive soils. The extreme southern portion of the county possesses some of the properties of the soils of the two other sections to a limited extent; but generally the soil is light and sandy, with either no clay sub-soil, or a considerable distance below the surface; yet this sand is fine and of a dark color when the land is fresh, and produces well; the natural growth being pine and scrub oak. Thus constituted by nature and circumstance, time and experience have demonstrated the adaptability of these soils to a very large variety of agricultural crops. The staple products of Leon are cotton, corn, oats, sugar-cane, field-peas, sweet potatoes, and pindars. Rye and barley succeed well, but are grown principally for Winter and Spring pasturage. Within the past few years experiments made with the growth of the Irish potato have resulted in success, and demonstrated the adaptability of our soil and climate for its successful culture for the early northern markets. Wool, flax, hemp, jute, ramie, and the silk worm will flourish here; but hitherto the culture of cotton has overshadowed these industries. Wheat, rice, tobacco, tea and indigo all grow well here, and would be highly remunerative under the same care and attention now so zealously bestowed on the growth of cotton.

It may be of interest to briefly review some of the crops cultivated :—

**COTTON** — From the natural soil, unfertilized, in an average year, under fair cultivation, our lands will produce from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty pounds of lint cotton per acre. This crop is usually planted in March and April on beds from three to four feet apart. It is cultivated with the plow and hoe, usually requiring five plowings and three hoeings at intervals of about twenty-one days. Cotton lands are prepared for planting here in February and March, when there is no green vegetation on them. Since the first settlement of this county cotton has been, and still is, the leading product. Here it is a certain crop under fair cultivation, and is not so subject to those fearful disasters that frequently destroy the cotton crops of the Southwest. True, we always have the caterpillar, but generally after the bulk of the crop has matured. The boll-worm, too, is occasionally found here, but its damage usually is light. We sometimes have rust in particular localities, usually on light, sandy soil; very rarely on the red clay lands. Cotton is not claimed to be our best-paying crop, owing to the low price of the staple for the past five years.

**CORN** — Indian corn is another leading product of this county, and is considered the staff of life for man and beast. Our soils being composed largely of lime and potash are especially adapted to the culture of corn, which partakes, in its organism, largely of both. The regular seasons of rain, in Spring and Summer, make this a most favorable climate for the production of corn and all the cereals. Scarcely are there two weeks at one time during the Summer months but that we have refreshing showers. In July fodder is pulled from the corn, cured and housed, or stacked in the field, where it remains until the corn is matured, in October, when both are housed. This fodder supplies the principal long forage for our work-stock during the Winter and Spring.

**OATS** — Our soil and climate are peculiarly adapted to the culture of oats—the best of all the provender crops; there being little labor or expense in their cultivation, and constituting both long and short forage, this crop has recommended itself for our adoption. The time for planting varies from September to February, according to the judgment and convenience of the particular farmer; however, the earlier they are planted the heavier the yield. The yield of oats is from twenty-five to one hun-

ded bushels per acre. The oats are cut in May and June, cured in the field in shocks, then housed.

**SUGAR-CANE**—The sugar-cane grows to perfection with us, and is very generally planted, but only for home consumption and local trade. All that is required of us to compete with Louisiana in the culture of this great product is capital and enterprise; with these it is destined at no distant day to become one of our leading products. Its culture is simple and much less expensive and laborious than cotton, requiring about the same cultivation as corn. Planting is done by opening a wide furrow and laying the stalks of cane, cut into sections of two feet, in the furrow, and covering with two furrows with a turn-plow. The cane matures about the first of November, when it is cut, stripped, passed through an iron mill, and the juice thus expressed is boiled in kettles until reduced to syrup or sugar, as is desired. The yield per acre in syrup is from four hundred to six hundred gallons.

**SORGHUM**—Sorghum flourishes finely here and was extensively grown during the late civil war. Its present culture is quite limited, being overshadowed by the more remunerative crop of sugar-cane.

**SWEET POTATOES**—The sweet potato is extensively and very successfully grown here, and is a leading product among our provision crops. It is an indispensable article of food on the table of all classes, and when corn meal and flour are scarce, the sweet potato supplies an acceptable substitute. It is a fine feed for cattle and hogs. The potato is planted from May until August, from a hot bed, or from vines grown from the whole potato planted in beds early. There is always a good local demand for our sweet potatoes at from 40 to 60 cents per bushel. Here is offered a lucrative field for the enterprising, in an extensive culture and shipment of this valuable product.

**THE GROUND NUTS**—Pindars, goobers and chufas are grown very easily and cheaply, yielding largely.

**FIELD PEAS**—The field-pea or "cow-pea" is a very important crop with us and grows and flourishes finely here. It is used very generally for the table, and as a feed for milch cows nothing is superior, producing an increased flow of rich milk, and adding vastly to the quality of butter. We plant in July to produce the pea; but for a forage crop, planting is done in April or May, when it runs to vine, making a fine hay, but few peas. The field pea is an important factor in the restoration of depleted soils, the heavy growth of vines being turned under with a large plow. This restorative system is now being practiced by our progressive farmers, and lands thus treated show a large increase in their annual products.

**WHEAT, BARLEY AND RYE**—These cereals, of late years, are but little grown with us. Barley and rye are planted only for pasturage and succeed well. Wheat grows finely on our high red lands, but its culture has become neglected, from the want of a rust-proof variety.

**RICE**—The upland variety of rice has been planted here for years past, in a small way, but sufficient to satisfy us that it can be very successfully grown upon our best soils.

**TOBACCO**—Tobacco can be grown very successfully here, as was demonstrated during the late civil war, when it was then cultivated very largely. The growth here is especially suited for the manufacture of cigars, which are very superior in quality, and preferred by some to the purest Havana. Imported seed are usually planted and seem to succeed better than seed grown here.

## VI. STOCK-RAISING.

The following is contributed by a native of the county who has long and successfully made this industry a special matter of study and practice:

Stock-raising in Leon county has, from its earliest history, been an important and profitable adjunct to the operations of every farmer. In ante-bellum times every planter raised his own supply of pork, and devoted considerable areas of their large estates to sheep-walks and pastures for cattle; and quite a number of them bred their entire supply of work-stock, horses and mules. Since the war this industry has been much neglected. The decay of fences, and the adoption generally of the tenant system on the plantations, made the care of stock quite impracticable. At present there are very few instances in the county where stock-raising is conducted as is understood

by that term among the model farmers of the North and Northwest; nor are there any operations resembling the methods of the ranchmen and herders of the western prairies; but there does exist a considerable and rapidly-increasing investment in raising stock by what might be considered a modified plan of the western herder, improved by a method and providence, borrowed from the more economical and scientific farmer of the North.

So little care and protection are necessary to insure comparative success in breeding and raising stock of all kinds in a climate like ours, that most operators are satisfied with a degree of profitable success that more ambitious men can greatly improve upon. Under the beneficent influences, however, of agricultural exhibitions, competitive shows, and a great amount of excellent literature on the subject of improving and breeding stock, together with the fact that we have wholesomely-administered laws that give protection to stock they did not enjoy for some years after the war, the majority of our farmers are recognizing the great value of stock as an adjunct to their farm operations, and are beginning to foster that branch of their business in a way that will soon place Leon county in the front rank of meat and butter producers. Thoroughbred stallions, bulls, boars and bucks have been introduced to that extent that it will be a safe estimate to say that two-thirds of all live stock in the county are grades of some improved blood or another. Several very fine horses have been brought to the county during the last five years, and on every farm are to be found well-bred colts; Durham, Devon, Ayreshire, Jersey, and Alderney cattle have been liberally introduced; and several very respectable herds of thoroughbreds and high grades of these several stocks are to be found in the vicinity of Tallahassee.

Of the healthfulness of live stock in this section of Florida too favorable a statement can scarcely be made. Horses occasionally are addicted to what is known as "blind-staggers," and work horses and mules are frequently killed by flatulent colic. Both diseases yield readily to treatment, and the latter need never result fatally if properly attended to. About twenty-two years ago a plague called "black tongue" raged among the cattle and deer in Florida, as it did throughout the South, and destroyed great numbers. With this exception the writer knows of no serious malady that has ever affected cattle here. It has been found that thoroughbred cattle brought here from the North frequently die after a few months residence, but just why I have heard no intelligent reason assigned. It was pronounced to be pleuropneumonia, but if so it never became contagious, for no native cattle are ever affected similarly. Milk stock sometimes "scour," but I never knew a case that was not cured at once.

In addition to the general healthfulness there are no pests in the way of mosquitoes, buffalo-gnats, scraw-worms, horse-flies, deer-flies, and heel-flies to torture and destroy cattle as in some parts of the South.

Sheep do most excellently, and owing to the absence of waxy mud to clog and harden between their toes, foot-rot, that dreaded scourge, is entirely unknown. It is never cold enough to necessitate sheltering them. They lamb in the open fields in December and January with perfect impunity. Hogs have several times been seriously decimated by "cholera."

As to what stock find to eat in Leon county we submit the following: Horses, cattle and sheep have been successfully and profitably raised in Leon county, year after year, without being fed at all, but left entirely to subsist on the natural and wild supply of food, and without being sheltered one hour from their birth to their maturity. In the cases of Mr. Geo. A. Croom and Gov. R. K. Call, on their plantations on Lake Jackson, we know this to have been done. And of course this could only be possible where grass grows—good grass and plenty of it. The Bermuda stands pre-eminent as a permanent pasture grass. It sods close and solid on our stiff clay land, and affords an inexhaustible supply of tender, rich food, from the first of March until about the first of December. The testimony of a large cattle and sheep breeder near Corpus Christi, Texas, is, that it will keep more stock to the acre than any grass in America, and he declares that ten acres of his Bermuda equals any one hundred acres of his best "mesquite." It flourishes with us in Leon county better than at Corpus Christi, because of our having more rain and a more porous soil.

Next in order of excellence among our wild permanent pasture grasses is what is popularly termed "black-top" or "smut grass." This is a coarser specimen than Bermuda, does not run but stools well, and spreads until it becomes solid; when kept grazed it puts up tender sprouts from April until December, and coquets with the warm days all winter. The writer wintered a lot of calves mainly on a small enclosure of this grass during the winter of 1878-9. It is exceedingly nutritious, and stock



of all kinds eat it greedily. We have, indigenous, several varieties of a rather coarse grass, termed indifferently "broom sedge." This very common growth springs up upon all lands turned out. If allowed to grow to maturity it is tough and woody, and of little value, but kept well under foot it furnishes an inexhaustible supply of sweet and fattening food throughout the year, and is the main chance for green stuff to cattle in the open range during January and February. For sheep it is equally good, but the latter kind of stock get through January and February very well on a succulent little weed or clover that covers all land cultivated the previous year, during these months. The name of this plant we are unfamiliar with. There are also four other distinct native grasses, the names of which we do not know, that furnish a large percentage of our permanent pasture, and sod closely, come early and stay late; they are called by the country people "carpet grass," "velvet grass," "sheep grass," &c.

In the cultivated fields we have several excellent hay grasses. Crab-grass and crow-foot, the two most prominent, spring up wherever the ground is broken, yield as much as eighteen to twenty-five hundred pounds of most excellent hay to the acre. Both of these grasses, when properly harvested, are quite as good as timothy. A native white clover, one of the first Spring visitors, is abundant and universal. Blue-grass, from Kentucky seed, has been known to do well in shaded pastures.

"Beggar-weed" is one of the greatest productions of this country. This is a plant that comes up wherever the land has been stirred, or on stubble ground, in corn fields, &c. It grows to be often ten feet high, completely covers the ground, and yields more green forage than any known plant. It is a cousin-german of the pea family; every leaf, twig and stem is sweet and tender, and possesses greater fattening properties than any plant known to feeders. Stock of all kinds devour it greedily. It is the freedman's crib from which "Ole Mike" and "Jude" draw their rations from "laying-by-time" until frost; it is indeed the salvation of 90 per cent. of the freedmen's mules, which, but for the rest and "beggar-lic" in the Fall, would never get through the Winter. This plant shades the ground completely during the August and September heat, has a long tap-root, and brings up the salts and returns an astonishing amount of vegetable matter to the land. The dead wood is brittle, pulverizes easily, and is far superior to clover or anything else to recuperate land. It can be cut for Winter forage at the time it begins to bloom, and if properly cured does not throw its leaves, and is the best Winter feed for young stock we have.

As has been said elsewhere in discussing dairying, we have several excellent soil-ing crops; but when it is remembered that stock of all kinds can be kept here all Winter, if desired, on growing oats, rye or barley, we can easily understand how little care and expense attends the Winter keep of stock of any kind. We confidently expect before long to see Leon county, with her two sisters, Gadsden and Jefferson, supplying all the butter and cheese used in the State.

**SHEEP-RAISING**—A successful sheep-farmer, living within two miles of Tallahassee, furnishes the following:

I began sheep-raising in 1874, by selecting eight head out of a lot that I had bought for killing, and keeping them one year as an experiment. I raised eight lambs, (one pair twins,) and as they did well I decided to increase my flock, and in January, 1876, I had sixty-six head of grown sheep. I then began to keep an accurate account with that branch of my business. I have bought some each year and killed off the inferior ones, and kept only the best, until I have now three hundred head. I take account of stock each January, and charge myself with \$2.00 per head for all of the grown sheep, and credit the account with all sales of mutton or wool, and have never failed to realize from the flock the whole amount of the account, or \$2.00 per head, for the flock, and leave the stock increased each year and a small balance over.

I have no pasturage except the native grasses of the country for Summer grazing. The pasture lands are rather poor and sandy, and when I began raising it would require from two to three acres to keep a sheep. Now, after five years of constant grazing, I can keep on the same field three to four head to the acre. I have some nut-grass, and while I would not advise any one to put it on their lands, as I deem it an awful pest, it affords tolerably good pasturage. I have some Bermuda grass, and think well of it. It affords good pasturage, and I believe when I get my land well set in it, it will keep from five to ten head per acre, from April to September. This grass will not only afford good grazing, but when the land is made rich, it will afford good mowings, and make a good hay for Winter feed. It will also kill out nut-grass. I use very little long feed for my sheep, as the grazing of cultivated lands affords food

during the Winter; yet some hay is very desirable to have and feed in wet, cold, Winter weather. Cotton-seed, at the rate of two to three bushels to the hundred sheep, make a good feed. I also grow turnips, and by using movable fences, can cut off small pieces of the turnip land and let the sheep eat the turnips out of the land, and while doing so they manure the land, and as soon as they eat out the turnips I plant oats or rye on the land for late Winter or early Spring grazing. Sweet potatoes are excellent and cheap feed, two to three bushels to the hundred head.

I believe in the free use of salt, and always keep it where the sheep can have free access to it. I use a box three feet long, four inches deep and wide, and from April to September keep the inside and edges of the box well and freely coated with tar. The sheep in eating the salt get the tar on their faces and noses, and it keeps off the flies. I think it otherwise healthy. I also use sulphur with the salt occasionally, say once in each month, and particularly in Winter; it keeps off lice. I sow oats in my cotton fields at the last working, and find it makes good Winter pasturage. I have no fine stock; only the best I could select from the native stock of the country.

My sheep average me four to five pounds of wool each year. I shear in April and September. The Fall shearing is more to keep the sheep from being laden with burs during the Winter, as our plantations are full of burs. I do not believe a sheep should be kept after it is five years old. I kill off after they are five years old, and all male lambs as early as they will dress twenty-four to thirty pounds. By such a course I have no very old sheep, and rarely ever lose one. As for dogs I keep a bell on every fifth sheep. It makes considerable noise, but I like it and the dogs fear it. I have lost but one sheep by dogs in two years, although there are fully three hundred dogs within three miles of my flock.

The best natural grass that has made its appearance in my pastures is a grass called "velvet" or "carpet grass." It completely covers the ground where it takes hold, and affords good grazing. In the fields on our best lands there is a weed called "chick-weed" that grows all Winter and affords good pasturage, and sheep are fond of it. Old sedge-fields afford good grazing all Winter, as there is always a green crop under the sedge. Sheep are ravenous feeders, and eat almost anything green in Winter. While the present open mode of cultivation is continued, there need be no fears of sheep suffering for the want of feed in the Winter, as they will travel three miles and return the same day; but when the present murderous and wicked system of botching up the lands shall have come to an end, and we have a population of live men, our farms will be enclosed and we shall grow rich by the production of wool and mutton. Then it will be necessary to look more after Winter pasture.

**HOG-RAISING** — One of the most successful planters in the county contributes the following on this subject:

The first great important point is to obtain the breed that is best adapted to our climate, and the breed that will produce the most pork at a given age. I have found that the Berkshire and Essex make the best cross for feeding purposes. As a principle I do not consider it advisable to cross the improved Berkshire with any other; on their own account I prefer to keep that breed pure and up to the mark by occasionally recrossing with a foreign blood of its own kind. They are a standard breed, very near perfection in themselves, possessing qualities that cannot be improved upon. The true, well-bred Berkshire has the stamp of the thoroughbred and possesses the merits required for its purpose; and great pains should be taken to perpetuate the purity of that blood.

However, when it is necessary to cross them it should be made with the Essex. The result of a single cross will always give satisfaction; the product being such as will feed quick and mature sooner than the pure bred Berkshire, and the pork is second to none. This cross continued upon itself will soon lose its identity with either breed, and will eventually result in a lot of mongrels. But continue to use a thoroughbred boar upon the product, and you will have all you want in the way of a hog.

I will give my plan of feeding, which I adopted fifteen years ago, and have thoroughly tested for the period named successively, and feel confident that pork can be raised profitably. In the place of corn I feed on cotton-seed during the Spring and Summer months, and fatten on sweet-potatoes and ground-peas. I generally commence feeding cotton-seed about the first of April. To each bushel of cotton-seed I add two quarts of corn or corn-meal, a very little salt, and boil the seed until well cooked; feed on this twice a day as much as they will eat up clean, in troughs. An idea prevails among the most of farmers that cotton-seed will kill hogs. This is true if fed to them raw and dry; but thoroughly cooked seed is not only innocent but

healthful food for hogs of all ages. I have demonstrated this by fifteen years trial without the slightest bad results.

After feeding for four or six weeks, I omit the corn or corn-meal, (as that article about that time is getting scarce with the most of us,) I then add to the seed all surplus vegetables of all kinds, sweet and Irish potatoes, sour syrup, and in fact, everything a hog will eat, cooked. About the middle of September I turn all my hogs on fields of sweet-potatoes and pindars, or ground peas, letting them have free access to both at the same time, with plenty of water. By the middle of November they are ready to be put up in pens to be fed on corn for twelve or fifteen days to harden the lard. By the above plan I have raised as fine hogs as I ever saw anywhere.

Cotton-seed is worth ten cents per bushel; it will cost to produce sweet-potatoes about ten cents per bushel, ground-peas about twenty cents per bushel, and corn about twenty cents per bushel. This will make your pork cost you not over three and one-half or four cents per pound.

## VII. VEGETABLE CULTURE.

It is an admitted fact that our soil is of the best quality to be found in the entire State. These high, rolling uplands, elevated from one to three hundred feet above the sea level, originally covered by the best class of hammock forest growth, have in their magnificent sub-soil of heavy clay, (with a surface of rich mold in their virgin state, and under cultivation such admixture of sand as to warm and lighten the surface,) a foundation for agricultural prosperity such as is known to no other portion of the State. The climate of Middle Florida, if it differs at all from that of other sections where the successful production of vegetable crops is an ascertained fact, is really far more favorable than that of those portions of the State which are less elevated. Every one knows that frost affects vegetation earliest and latest *on the low lands*, and that the tops of the hills and high, rolling uplands are longer and later exempt from the severe effects of frost than the valleys and low, flat lands intervening. It is a well-established fact that the natural vegetation—the leaves of forest trees and native grasses—start into life in the Spring of the year from ten days to two weeks earlier in this region than on the lower levels of East Florida. This fact has been noted for many years by old residents; and the argument from it, verified by actual experience, is that the vegetable crops likely to be injured by late frosts are safer here than in the region named. Hence there would seem little doubt, that with proper and intelligent cultivation, the vegetable crops of Middle Florida could be so timed as to really anticipate those of other and less favored sections by some ten or twelve days, thus assuring to them the very earliest shipments and highest market prices.

The results of experimental crops of early vegetables, raised expressly for shipment to northern markets within the past few years, amply demonstrate the certainty of large profits in this industry, notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions under which these experiments were prosecuted. With better methods and a more intelligent class of labor, Middle Florida could lead all other sections of the State in this industry, save the extremity of the peninsula.

**IRISH POTATOES** — One who has engaged largely in growing this crop, according to the most approved methods, says :

There are many reasons why Leon county is well suited for raising potatoes for the early northern and western markets. The soil is well adapted to this crop, particularly the lightest red lands, which, after once being brought to a proper state of fertility, are easily kept in that condition.

As to time, we can usually place all our crop in market before Charleston and Savannah begin to ship, so that we have nothing to contend with except Bermuda. The writer has shipped potatoes every season since 1875, and has, with one exception, finished shipping every year before any were sent from Charleston or Savannah, and even that year prices were remunerative. Potatoes raised here, when properly ma-

tured and handled with care, bring prices almost equal to those from Bermuda, which always lead the market.

The usual time for planting is from the middle of January to the middle of February, and ordinarily the crop can be shipped by May 10th, leaving the ground on which it was grown in fine condition, and with abundance of time to make a crop of some other kind. The writer in one instance has made a bale of cotton to the acre after taking off the potatoes; at another time forty-five bushels of corn; and at still another more than four hundred bushels of sweet potatoes.

The amount of crop varies of course with the season, and the quantity and quality of manures used. Generally from twenty to fifty barrels per acre are raised, and more than one hundred have been made.

This has been an exceedingly unfavorable year for potatoes, but notwithstanding this a member of the "Leon County Farmers' Club" reported to the Club at a recent meeting that he had shipped one hundred and forty-eight barrels from seven acres (about half a crop); had sold them in New York and Baltimore at from \$4 to \$8 per barrel, the lot netting \$706.45, being an average of \$4.72 per barrel. Besides those shipped, about seventy-five barrels were reserved for family use, stock feed, &c., which will more than balance labor account, and after paying for seed, fertilizers, cooage and hauling to the depot, he had cleared over \$500.

Our facilities for shipping are good, and the prospect is that another season they will be even better.

**BEANS AND PEAS**—The following statements embrace the results of experiments made by another writer in growing and shipping vegetables during the present season:

Dwarf varieties of peas that grow about two feet in height should be planted; they require no sticks or artificial support. The seed is planted in December or January. The crop is usually ready to ship about the middle of March or early in April, and will command handsome prices; at that time, this season, they were worth from \$5 to \$6 per bushel crate.

Of snap-beans the dwarf, round varieties should be planted; they sell better than the flat kinds. In cultivating we prepare and plant the ground about the first or middle of February; they will commence to bear about the first of April, and will bear shipping until the latter part of May; they should be gathered while tender and will snap short.

An acre of snap-beans well manured and cultivated will yield about two hundred crates during the shipping season; and in the month of April of this year they were worth from \$4 to \$5 per crate.

No crop can be made that will yield a handsomer return for the investment than snap-beans, when planted in proper time and properly cultivated. They are not as susceptible to cold as might be supposed. Beans this year stood several severe cold snaps, when in fact Irish potatoes were badly injured. The beans turned red but soon grew out again.

During the latter part of February of this year, the writer planted one-quarter of an acre in dwarf wax beans (black seed); the ground was moderately fertile and not manured. The unusually cold Spring retarded their growth and caused them to die out, leaving the stand badly broken, and thus throwing them fully a month later in shipping than they should otherwise have been. Even with these disadvantages there were shipped thirty-three bushel-crates from this small crop, and with a good stand would have shipped not less than fifty. It was about the 10th of May when the first shipment was gathered, ten crates, which sold in New York, bringing \$26 as net proceeds, or \$2.60 per crate, clear of shipping and selling expenses. The cost of planting, cultivating and gathering did not exceed \$5.

**MELONS**—The writer of the following has had a practical experience in the culture of melons, and speaks "by the card":

The melon as an article of commerce has not heretofore occupied a conspicuous place among the products of Leon county, but from the earliest settlement of the country our markets have been supplied for home consumption with the most delicious melons at moderate yet remunerative prices, by the small farmers, who vie with each other in their efforts to get the first and best melons into market. Of later years, when our planters have felt the necessity of diversifying their crops, their at-

tion has been directed more to the watermelon crop, which is rapidly growing into favor as a paying crop here as well as in other sections of the State.

The cantaloupe, or nutmeg melon, grows finely here, is of most excellent flavor, and may be shipped to near markets with profit; but is too delicate to bear the rough treatment to which our vegetables and fruits are subjected in shipment.

The watermelon grows here to great perfection. There are many varieties grown for home consumption, all having their peculiar merits, but it is generally conceded that there is no variety better suited for market than the "Georgia Gipsy" or "Rattlesnake" melon, which takes its name from the color and shape of the stripe it bears. This melon has a decided red meat, moderately thin rind, grows to a good size, is uniform in shape and color, ships well, and is a favorite with dealers.

The melon should be planted here as early in the month of March as the season will admit of, and to guard against casualties and secure an early stand, it is well to make a second planting in the same hills just before the first planting comes up. Cultivate with the hoe and turn-plow. Two hoeings and one or two plowings is all the work required.

The profit of this crop depends much on the cost of getting it to market. With five hundred hills to the acre, two vines to the hill, and two marketable melons to the vine, you would have two thousand melons to the acre. Suppose you can get for them fifteen dollars per hundred in Louisville, Nashville, Cincinnati, New York, or any other of our cities, this will give you three hundred dollars per acre. Allow two hundred dollars for transportation and you still have one hundred dollars per acre. Take from this rent of land, \$2 per acre; three pounds of seed, \$3; plowing, three days, \$3.75; hoeing, two days, \$1.50; preparing and distributing compost, \$15; gathering and shipping, \$10; making the entire cost of melons loaded on the car, \$35.25, which subtracted from \$100 leaves a net profit of \$64.75 per acre. These estimates do not appear to be large, but if we reduce the net profit one-half it would certainly pay well for the amount invested.

## VIII. DAIRY FARMING.

From two very full and excellent articles on this subject are condensed the following:

What advantages are offered by Leon county to the dairyman? They are many and great. I reply, whether to the possessor of many acres or few. The first may, if he chooses, devote a hundred acres or so to his herd; and they, finding their own sustenance and shelter, will thrive and increase rapidly on the natural pasturage, with scarcely an expense to the owner, except to keep track of them. The second, on the other hand, who may be obliged to count carefully the number of acres to be allotted to each head of stock, may yet at comparative little cost make his cattle a source of steady profit. To do this it is necessary first to consider the matter of pasturage.

On reasonably good ground, if plowed once a year, crab-grass will grow abundantly, and is very sweet and succulent and highly relished by stock. By dividing the pasture into two parts, so that the herd may be turned into each alternately for a week or more at a time, an acre to an acre and a half to each head of stock, large and small, has been found to carry them through the Summer very comfortably. If, however, profit is desired through the yield of milk and butter, the pasture must be supplemented by soiling crops. Of these a large assortment is at the service of the enterprising dairyman. Something green can be kept growing during every month of the year.

Fodder-corn sowed in drills yields the earliest crop for Summer use. This is followed by cat-tail, or pearl millet, which, though not so nutritious as the corn, yet produces such an immense amount of forage, no keeper of stock can afford to do without it. At the same time come the various kinds of sorghum, a much richer and more palatable food. I am testing this year a new variety of this, called the Rural Branching Sorghum, introduced by the *Rural New Yorker*, which promises to be of immense value as a forage crop for milch cows. It is sweet, nutritious, highly relished by all kinds of stock, like all the sorghums, but differing from the other kinds in throwing up a large number of shoots from the same seed, which may be repeatedly cut through the season, like the cat-tail millet. Thus far I have found it a very vigorous grower, and apparently well able to fulfill the large promises made of its virtues. A little later come cow-pea vines, producing an enormous amount of feed at small cost of cultivation, and carrying the cows well through the Fall.

For Winter feeding nothing can surpass the sweet potato. A heaping peck given to a cow each day, in addition to her other rations, produces a surprising effect, both in the quantity and quality of milk and butter. The vines also furnish a good amount of fair feed. In addition to the potatoes should be raised a large patch of ruta бага turnips to be mixed with the potatoes, and also to furnish green food in the tops. Pumpkins also should be raised in large quantities for the Winter, and cow-pea vines cured in the sun. A little later in the Fall may be sown a field of mixed oats and rye to furnish green grazing. This, beginning in January, will continue almost to the time of cutting fodder-corn again in the Spring.

By husbanding the manure and good cultivation, a few acres may be made to yield a surprising amount of the crops above mentioned. Five or six acres has been found to produce enough for ten or twelve cows, and cut down the amount of purchased feed, such as corn-meal, wheat-bran, cotton-seed meal, &c., to very moderate proportions. If the stock are turned out to range through the corn and cotton fields from December 1st to March 1st, the dry and young stock will require but very little feeding through the Winter.

The matter of feed settled, the question next arises, during what months can butter be successfully made? I reply, through every month of the year. There is this peculiarity in butter made here: In hot weather, when Northern butter is reduced to oil, the home-made article, if properly managed, retains its shape without the aid of ice. I make good, sweet butter constantly, Summer and Winter, without using ice, and with nothing colder than good well water. Very likely the modern devices of "Cooley Creamers" and "Hardin Processes," with ice, might be an advantage, but good butter can be made without them.

In regard to improved breeds of cattle, we have several of the finest. There are the Devon, Durham, Ayrshire and Jersey or Alderney. These are seldom found pure, but are more or less mixed with each other. Some breeders have lately procured thoroughbred bulls, and stock of pure blood may soon be more common. Several of these mixed breeds, however, produce most excellent milkers.

Those in which the Alderney or Jersey predominates yield the richest milk and yellowest butter, while the Devon and Ayrshire excel in large yields.

One of my best cows is mixed Jersey and Ayrshire. She combines the rich, yellow milk of the first, with the large size and full yield of the latter. For butter-making a strong infusion of the Jersey is desirable, while if a yield of milk is wanted the Devon, perhaps, would be preferred.

My experience as to the healthfulness of cattle in this county shows them subject to very few complaints. Occasionally one is attacked with indigestion and bloating, or the scours, which generally yields readily to simple remedies, such as a purge of linseed oil, or weak lye from wood ashes, or salt, and followed by a few doses of conditton powders.

Very little shelter is required in this climate. If the cattle can seek their own in a large range, they will get along very comfortably without any artificial aid. But if kept up they will appreciate and pay for some additional shelter. All they require, however, is a simple shed to keep off the cold rains of Fall and Winter; and if there is no piece of woods or buildings as a wind-break on the northwest side of their lot, they need a tight fence where they may find refuge from the cold winds.

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Can dairy-farming be made profitable in Leon county?

Undoubtedly it can, provided he who undertakes it procures the best stock for the purpose—Jerseys and their grades—and uses the best methods of raising his cream.

None but those who have tried it have any idea what good pasturage even our poorest pine lands will afford, simply by excluding stock from them until the grasses which naturally grow on them have time to become well set. Good pasturage may also be had by resting land which has been in cultivation; and better still, by plowing under in May the crop of weeds which will before that time spring up on such land, and allowing the grasses—crab, crows-foot, &c.—to take their place. I have a pasture of some thirty-five acres, two-thirds of which has been under cultivation until the present year; the remainder is woodland, from which stock has been kept for some years, which has afforded grazing for fifteen to eighteen head of cattle, keeping them in fine condition, notwithstanding the severe drouth of the past Spring and of this Summer. Even our old sedge-fields will, if burned off in February, afford toler-

able grazing. Our cultivated lands, if used as pastures for a number of years, become set in a variety of grasses which afford excellent grazing.

For Winter grazing and for soiling no country can grow a greater variety or more luxuriant crops. Rye, oats, barley, orchard grass, mangels, turnips, carrots and cabbage growing all through our Woods. I have orchard grass sown last Fall now growing most luxuriantly, having stood the long-protracted dry weather of the last Spring and of this Summer.

For Fall pasturage nothing can surpass our beggar-weed, not even clover, either in the increased flow of milk or the quantity and quality of butter from it. Springing up in our corn-fields about the time of our last plowing, it will, by the time we can gather our corn, say the last of August or first of September, afford for stock of all kinds—cows, horses and hogs—food of the richest sort, on which they will fatten as if fed on grain, until it is killed by frost, which rarely occurs before November, and often not until late in December. It gives us all we could ask for stock of all kinds for three months without sowing, cultivation or gathering.

For soiling there is nothing grown which we cannot grow here. Nothing can surpass for this purpose our Southern variety of Indian corn, three crops of which may be grown on the same land in one year, besides a crop of peas and oats. Half an acre well manured, thoroughly broken, and well pulverized, sown in corn, will be amply sufficient, with the Fall crop of peas and Winter oats, to feed a good cow through the year. After September begins it will not do to sow corn—the worms destroy it—but in our Southern bean or “cow-pea” we have one of the best of soiling crops. Sown either broadcast or in drills, it does equally well, makes a rapid growth, and affords a tempting and nutritious food for cattle. It grows until checked by frost, and I know of no plant, save Indian corn, that produces more weight to a given quantity of land. Properly cured, no hay equals it for cattle. Our “eat-tail” or “Pearl” millet is still another valuable soiling plant, requiring to be sown only once for the year, affording a vast amount of food from a small area of land. It can be cut in our long season from three to four times, and cattle, although not at first particularly fond of it, soon become so, and the butter made from it rivals in richness of color that made from rye. Mr. R. F. Bradford, of this county, last Summer fed four fine cows on three-fourths of an acre of millet, without pasturage or other feed.

For Winter feed nothing can afford a richer flow of milk than our sweet potatoes, and no crop can be grown more cheaply; from three to four hundred bushels can be grown per acre, and that after a crop of Irish potatoes has been gathered from the land. Last year I dug and housed from one acre three hundred and ninety-two bushels, not including cut and small potatoes, from which I had in the Spring marketed thirty barrels of Irish potatoes. German millet as well as Hungarian grass grows luxuriantly, and the Johnson or Means grass promises to add to the list of our valuable grasses for soiling, pasturage and for hay. Cotton-seed, the richest of all food for stock, is cheap and abundant; and we find a moderate quantity, soaked and fed to milch-cows daily, adds to the flow of milk, and keeps them in flesh.

Turnips of all kinds, including Swedes, as also mangels, can be grown and fed to cows from the field without the labor and expense of storing, as the northern dairyman is compelled to do. Only a few persons have tried dairying as a business in our county; but there are to be found here all the requisites to success, and there is every reason to believe it can be made a successful and profitable business. Mr. R. F. Bradford has from four cows, two of them heifers with their first calves, sold butter to the amount of \$150.00, during the past nine months, besides having an abundance of milk and butter for his family. His cows are Jersey and their grades, and yield from two to four gallons of milk each per day. The price he has realized from his butter, five to ten cents per pound above the market price, speaks well for the quality. There are in our county many localities abounding in fine springs, which could be utilized for dairying, and in our towns and near our railroads ice can always be had at reasonable rates.

#### IX. POULTRY.

The following was contributed by a lady who has had an extensive and successful experience in poultry-farming:—

Among the many industries pertaining to farm life in Leon county, there is not one which yields a larger return for the amount invested than poultry-raising. At the outset the writer will state that the facts here set forth are drawn from an actual experience.

To be successful with poultry, (which we understand to mean to raise the largest quantity at the smallest expense, and have the most abundant supply of eggs,) we would advise as to the breeds, the common kinds, crossed with game. We succeeded best with these, raising sometimes in a single season more than three hundred chickens, and having an abundant supply of eggs. We, and some of our friends, have experimented with some of the large, fancy breeds, to our sorrow. They present a fine appearance in the poultry yard, lay large eggs and raise—well, little else than great expectations! They are not constant layers, consume enormous quantities of food, which must be provided for them, as they are the most indolent creatures and do not attempt to scratch and provide for themselves, as the common fowls do. Then, they are not hardy, and if they do not fall victims to the first disease that sweeps over the fowl-yard, they soon become so puny and gouty that we truly wish they had. Provide a large well-ventilated poultry-house thoroughly white-washed inside and out: use sassafras posts and poles for roosts placed independently in the centre of the building, and renew once a year. Use fifteen-inch square boxes for nests, arranged on shelves, and when the hens are set sprinkle dry sulphur or snuff in and around the nests. As soon as the hatching is done, remove hen and chickens to a small coop where the hen will be confined, but the chicks can run at large. Take the box where the hatching was done from the house, empty and scald thoroughly, and expose to the sun and showers for several weeks, at the end of which time the cleansing is complete and the box can be again used for a nest. These precautions are absolutely essential here, to guard against chicken-lice and "mites," those terrible little torments that in our climate so beset the careless or inexperienced. We will here state, for the information of the curious, that we were never troubled with either of these vermin after the first two years, during which time we bought and paid for our experience.

For feeding chickens, allow one quart of sound shelled corn to every fifteen grown fowls, or twice the quantity of oats; turkeys require about treble the amount. In Summer we prefer the oats to insure a constant supply of eggs. Feed once a day, late in the afternoon, as in the early morning they can, and do, provide themselves a bountiful repast of bugs and worms, if not fed. Confine the hens with young chickens a week or two in early Spring and late Winter, and two or three days only during warm weather.

Feed the young chickens with soft dough made of corn-meal, and always provide plenty of pure, fresh water for all poultry in *shallow iron vessels*, with plenty of red pepper in Winter and early Spring. The work of setting hens can be carried on here throughout the year, but in the late Fall and Winter select for it such hens as you know to be gentle, careful mothers, and extra care and feeding are necessary to insure rapid growth. The mid-Summer and Fall chickens make the most constant layers, while the early Spring chickens attain the largest growth.

In raising geese, ducks, &c., the same rules may be observed.

To secure large flocks of turkeys, set a turkey and a chicken hen at the same time on turkey eggs, and when the hatching is done, give all the little ones to the turkey. Confine her in a large coop where the little ones can run in and out for a period of six weeks. Feed bountifully three times a day with *well-cooked* corn-bread and fresh twigs of Jerusalem Oak, which they devour greedily and prefer to either onions or sweet fennel. Use red pepper frequently, either in their bread or water. It is necessary to keep young turkeys out of heavy dews and showers, so they require more care and watching than chickens. In all our experience in poultry-raising here, we have never seen a case of "gapes," a disease so fatal to young poultry elsewhere.

Apart from petty thieves, the only obstacles we encountered were the two diseases known in common parlance as "hang-head" and "cholera." If some good genius, desirous of immortalizing himself, and conferring a lasting benefit on poultry-loving humanity, will turn his attention to these two diseases and invent an infallible cure for both, a grateful public will pray that his table be ever blessed with a bountiful supply of fat fowls, besides which we will have him canonized as the saint of the poultry yard.

## X. FRUIT-CULTURE.

One of the most successful fruit-growers in this section of the State furnishes the following exhaustive article:

Leon county, from its diversity of fertile soil, undulating surface of hill and dale, interspersed with clear-water lakes, and with a climate neither too hot nor cold, is ad-



mirably adapted to the growth of a variety of fruits, not only embracing those of a semi-tropical nature, but those that are grown in the middle and northern States. Having a fondness for horticultural pursuits, we will relate our experience in them, with the limited time we have had to devote while not engaged in other business, (embracing a period of over sixteen years.)

**PEARS** — Pears we find to succeed well. Our experience has almost entirely been confined to the dwarfs. We are planting out standards, and are pleased with their growth. But one variety, the Bartlett, has borne yet, and that this year. Trees six years old. In the dwarfs we have made a success of the varieties planted. The Duchess d'Angouleme, Louise Bonne de Jersey, Stevens' Genesec, Belle Lucrative, Bartlett, White Doyenne, Clap's Favorite, and Dearborn's Seedling, have been fruiting for some years; other varieties are just coming into bearing, while others have been planted lately and are doing well; among them the LeConte, on its own roots, grafted on the common pear, and also on the quince. This pear bids fair to be one, if not the most profitable of our fruits, on account of its early bearing, vigorous growth and prolific yield, together with the fine size and appearance of its fruit. As a special article will be written on this pear, we will not dwell longer on its merits. Last year we had to build frames around our Louise trees to tie the branches to, to assist them in supporting their fruit. The Belle Lucrative, several seasons, have borne us two crops a year. After the growth of the first crop to about the size of hickory-nuts, the trees bloom again and put on a second crop, which matures in from three weeks to a month after the first. If these two crops are allowed to mature the following season, the trees will produce but few pears, requiring a rest of one season to recuperate after performing extra duty. We find that thinning the fruit out each year, leaving the most vigorous and perfect, will give us an average annual crop, but if permitted to mature all the fruit they put on, they, like the apple, will have an on and off year. We prefer an annual yield of fine fruit in quality to a biennial yield in quantity. The home demand takes all we have had to dispose of at from forty cents to a dollar per dozen. We are confident that a good shipping business can be done with this fruit, especially with those varieties that come early. The pear ripens in its perfection in the house, not on the trees, and should be pulled as soon as the stem parts readily from the branch; it is then firm and hard, and will bear transportation well, ripening on its way to market.

**GRAPES** — With this delicious fruit we have experimented with some eighty varieties, with more or less success. At present we grow but few varieties for profit: Delaware and Concord for the table, and Ives and Scuppernong for wine. We are experimenting with some of the fine varieties by grafting on cut wild vines; this may give them vigor and stability, qualities in which some of the choice varieties are deficient. The above named four are hardy and vigorous. There are but few grapes that will equal the Delaware in flavor, and we consider it stands with the grape, as the Seckel to the pear, at the head of the list. As this grape grows in comparatively few places to perfection, we are fortunate to have a climate and soil adapted to it; and as it brings a high price in the market, we should avail ourselves of its extensive production. We can begin to put the Concord, Ives and Delaware on the market from the last week in June to the first in July. Concord and Ives net ten cents per pound; Delaware from twenty to twenty-five cents. The Ives Seedling wine is worth in our market \$2 per gallon; Scuppernong sells at \$1 per gallon by the barrel. We find that training the vines to stakes is better than the trellis, the leaves protecting the grapes better from the sun and rain. The *Vitis Vinifera* or European grape will not succeed here; the leaves are too delicate and will not stand showers of rain followed by the hot sun. Two thousand gallons of wine have been made from an acre of Scuppernong grapes, when in full bearing.

**PEACHES** — The tree in this climate begins to bear at two years old, the growth is vigorous, and when an orchard can be planted near the residence, and the fowls and hogs are allowed to run in it, to consume the curenlio-stung fruit, and proper attention is given to prevent the attacks of the borer, the orchard will give as good paying returns as an orange grove. The early bearing of the trees and the high price the fruit commands, when placed early in the northern markets, will pay handsomely for the trouble bestowed on it. The early varieties, as the Amsden, Honey, Alexander, and Peen-to or Flat Peach of China, should be planted for shipping. Later varieties will always command good prices in our home markets. We have raised peaches, of a variety originated by J. P. Berekmans, of Augusta, Georgia, called the Great Eastern, that have averaged three-fourths of a pound to the peach. This season peaches

have brought in New York \$2 per dozen, raised in Florida. We have seen some magnificent specimens of the fruit grown from our native seedlings. On one plantation, settled in 1839, there was an Indian old field, on which peach trees were growing of a large size; these trees continued to bear and grow without any cultivation or attention until 1855, when they gradually died out, embracing a period of twenty-six years within our knowledge, and were probably over twenty years old when the plantation was settled, showing the longevity of the tree in this climate. From our experience, we would advise in setting out an orchard, to procure the trees from our home nurseries, or not farther North than our sister States of Georgia and Alabama. The northern grown trees are some month or six weeks later in blooming than ours, and take several years to get acclimated. As a general rule, the nearer home we can procure our trees, of most varieties, the better success we meet with.

**FIGS**—The fig is a vigorous grower, early bearer, and most prolific in its yield of fruit. We have a number of varieties. The Celeste or Sugar fig matures first, in June, followed by others, which extend the season into October. This fruit is a palatable and wholesome diet, eaten from the tree or with cream and sugar. They make a fine preserve, marmalade and pickle, and would no doubt pay handsomely shipped North in those forms. The main profit from this fruit will be in drying it in a suitable dryer, when we see no reason why it should not take the place of the commercial article in our markets. Florida could supply the Union with all it would consume. The tree is propagated from the cutting. Cuttings put in the ground during the months of September and October will make rooted plants by Spring, when they should be transplanted, and will yield fruit in the Summer. This tree requires no pruning, and but very little cultivation after the first three years. Trees said to be forty years old and upwards are growing around Tallahassee, and bid fair from their appearance to complete their one hundred years.

**APPLES**—The apple has had comparatively so little attention or trial in this county that we cannot yet vouch for its success. We were told that they would not succeed, by the old settlers, as we were told concerning the grape. Having found out from inquiries that the grapes planted in former times were of the European varieties which will not succeed; and having proved by yearly crops of grapes that the varieties originating in the United States will, we have come to the conclusion that we will find varieties of the apple that will suit our climate. To confirm us in our opinion, we have Shockley apples that are now bearing the second year; trees vigorous and hardy, making fine growth, and fruit smooth and healthy. The age of the trees is six years. Some of my neighbors have trees that have been bearing for several years fine apples. They have lost the names. As there is a "boom" on fruit culture that has taken possession of our people, among the variety of experiments we think we will in a few years have a list of apples that we can rely on to do well with us.

**JAPAN PERSIMMONS**—The Japan persimmon is being given a trial. We find the tree to grow well, and have met with success in grafting it on our native variety. Should the graft continue to do well, we will soon have our native trees crowned with heads of the Japan, and an abundance of this fruit in a few years.

**JAPAN PLUMS**—The Loquat or Japan plum succeeds with us. It is an evergreen and highly ornamental tree. The fruit is sub-acid, grows in clusters and of a creamy white color. It is particularly to be desired, as it ripens in February, and commands from our Winter visitors from 75 cents to \$1 per quart. It is propagated from the seed.

**POMEGRANATES**—The pomegranates, both sweet and acid, are cultivated to a small extent. The acid variety, mixed with sugar and water as the lemon, makes a very pleasant and grateful drink during the warm weather. The tree is very ornamental and productive, easily grown, and we believe there would be a demand for the fruit were it shipped North and West as soon as it became generally known.

**PLUMS**—This county is well dotted over with wild plum orchards; they yield so abundantly that the curculio from lack of ability to destroy, is forced to turn over to us a large proportion of the fruit. The Wild Goose, Newman, De Caradene and other cultivated varieties succeed.

**ORANGES**—We have a grove around our dwelling that is over thirty years old. These trees when about five years old were killed to the ground by a remarkably severe Winter. They put up from the roots again and made fine trees. Some seven or eight years ago, owing to a freeze, the tender branches were killed and we lost the crop for that year. The year after they bore again and continued to bear full crops.

when last Winter, on the 30th of December, a hard freeze and sleet killed the trees with a part of the crop on them, from two to six feet from the ground. They have now put out vigorous shoots, which at the present time (June) are from five to six feet long, and will form new heads to the trees, and we look for a crop again in 1883. From the above statement the orange cannot be relied upon as an annual crop. Nevertheless, as our fruit is of a very superior quality, and as we may have from ten to fifteen years of good crops before we miss a year or two by the effects of an early cold snap, the orange is a very desirable tree to plant. Many of our trees produced from 2,000 to 2,500 oranges to the tree, and oranges were so plentiful in Tallahassee last December that they sold on the street out of the wagons at 75 cents per hundred. These same oranges brought from \$6 to \$8 per barrel when sold in New York. Our citizens have not been discouraged by the extraordinary cold of last Winter, and a number of fine groves have been put out since the freeze. If we can get from ten to twelve crops in fifteen years, and from experience we can calculate on that number, we should be satisfied, particularly as we have a soil and climate in which all the other fruits can be raised, and are not confined to one variety as a source of income. We possess another advantage over more southern latitudes in our State in the fertility of our soil. Our two-year-old trees from the seed are as large in size as a four-year-old raised on the pine, sandy soils, and the item of cost of fertilizers in South Florida, to keep the trees growing and in a healthy condition, makes a good offset against our occasional loss of a crop. Our trees have had but one marring in fifteen years, then with ashes; the fertility of the soil has been sufficient to keep them in vigorous growth and full bearing. As land is cheap and fertile, labor abundant, and other crops can be planted in an orange grove, while the trees are growing to a bearing age, we advise by all means to plant a grove.

**BANANAS**—The banana, owing to its susceptibility to be cut down by a slight freeze, is an uncertain crop. We have seen them planted in favorable, protected locations where they have done well.

**BLACKBERRIES**—The blackberry springs up in every field that is allowed to lay out; they yield enormously, and are called by the negroes the Commissary Department, where free rations are procured by the old and young. They make a fine wine and cordial, healthful and medicinal during the summer, and the dried fruit is of a commercial value.

**ALMONDS AND OTHER NUTS**—The almond grows here as well as the peach. We have three varieties, the Hardshell, Princess and Sultana. The two latter are the varieties that produce the bulk of the almonds of commerce. We planted the trees three years ago; the Hardshell has been the only kind that has fruited yet. The trees are vigorous, but it is too early yet for us to predict of their profitable culture. The pecan, English walnut, Spanish chestnut and other nut-bearing trees, are a success with us.

**STRAWBERRIES**—Another writer says of the strawberry:

One of our most successful strawberry growers, a lady, plants the Nuan or Charleston variety. They are planted during the latter part of the rainy season, after the hot weather is past. The soil is a sandy loam. The plants are set about eighteen by eighteen inches apart, using a compost of cow-lot manure, ashes and chip manure, broadcasted on them just before the blossoming season. The ground is prepared as for ordinary garden vegetables, and kept level, or nearly so.

The after cultivation consists of mowing off the weeds, and pulling up their roots, thereby loosening the soil just before fertilizing for the next year's crop, not disturbing the roots of the plant by cultivation of any kind, at any season of the year. No mulching or watering, as they are planted so closely that their foliage shades and mulches sufficiently. The proceeds from one-eighth of an acre, thus cultivated, were four hundred quarts this year, and our season was the shortest, on account of drouth and a backward Spring, known for some years. This crop was sold from seventy-five cents per quart, down to fifteen cents. At an average of twenty cents per quart, this would be \$640 per acre.

Another cultivator raised from one-eighth of an acre of Longworth's Prolific three hundred and twenty quarts on sandy soil, using a compost of stable manure and cotton-seed just before the fruiting season as a top-dressing. From 1,000 Wilson's Albany plants the writer gathered ninety quarts of first-class fruit. There was no fertilizer of any kind used. The average price was eighteen cents per quart in the home market.

The cost of plants, planting, cultivating, fertilizers, picking and marketing would not exceed twenty per cent. of the gross proceeds.

Two of these parties have sent berries to their friends at the North, a distance of one thousand miles or more, without the modern improvements of refrigerators, etc. : and the berries arrived at their destination in good order, thus proving that with our present facilities we can ship them to northern markets.

A neighbor of mine says that his plants, Nunan, produced this year one quart to the single plant, of the finest fruit, and that it will surely pay, if we engage in it extensively enough to make it an object for the railroad company to give us the modern improvements, and dispatch *en route*. There has been raised in the neighboring county of Gadsden, eight thousand quarts per acre.

Proceeds of one shipment of berries from Jacksonville, 1,052 quarts, shipped to New York, and sold for \$2,630, or \$2.50 per quart. Cost of packing and shipping, \$283, leaving a net profit of \$2,346. Who will say there is not money in the strawberry business?

The time required to reach New York is about seventy hours : and by the use of refrigerator-boxes, we can put the fruit on the market in good order, at an expense of from ten to twelve and a half cents per quart.

THE LECONTE PEAR—The following was contributed by one of the most extensive and successful growers of this new fruit in Thomas county, Georgia, which adjoins Leon on the north. There are thousands of trees growing in Leon, but they are not yet in bearing :

This truly wonderful pear was introduced into Liberty county, Georgia, in the year 1853 by Major John LeConte, the gentleman from whom it takes its name. The original LeConte pear tree was obtained from William Prince's nursery, Flushing, New York, in 1840, which was hybridized there accidentally, and sold to Major LeConte as a Chinese Sand pear tree, the parent trees being the Chinese Sand pear and a cultivated variety, and was sent to his niece, Miss Harden. She planted it in her garden. It was supposed to be the Chinese Sand pear, but as this pear is known to be an inferior fruit, it was discovered, after the tree came into bearing, to be entirely different, the fruit being delicious and also entirely different in appearance. At a meeting of the Pomological Society of Thomas county, this pear and the Sand pear were investigated, and the two being so entirely different, it was decided it should be called after Major LeConte, hence its name. The parent tree is now nearly thirty years old, and it is still vigorous, and has always been healthy, bearing yearly a bountiful supply of delicious fruit. The writer of this article heard Dr. J. P. Stevens say that he knew this tree to bear twenty-nine bushels of fine, well developed pears in one season, and it can be substantiated that a tree here in Thomas county bore at the age of eight years twenty-five bushels of fine pears in one year.

This tree is successfully propagated from the cutting or slip, and being a very strong grower, comes early into bearing.

We believe that it will not do well grafted or budded upon other stocks, because we have tried with poor success, having found no tree with a root sufficiently strong to stand its immense growth. They come into bearing when well treated at five to six years, and begin to pay when six years old.

Mr. L. L. Varnedoe, living near Thomasville, sold from eight eight-year-old trees and five five-year-old trees \$410 worth of fruit in one season. He shipped the pears to Boston and New York, and the above amount was net. A great many of these trees have been propagated around Thomasville, Georgia, and while many have been sold to nearly every State in the Union, the people there have looked well to their interest by setting out many beautiful orchards of them, enhancing the value of their farms we might say thousands of dollars.

The LeConte grows on any kind of land, and like everything else, pays best when well cared for. It will flourish on a good quality of sandy or clay land.

## XI. THE FLOWERS OF LEON COUNTY.

The following contribution to our pamphlet is made by a lady, whose love of flowers and success in cultivation makes her especially fitted for the task. It will interest the lady readers of the pamphlet, and prove to them that in coming to Leon

county they will find all their ideas of Florida as "The Land of Flowers" more than realized :

" The Harvests, God's bounty ; the Flowers, His smile,"

How suggestive to a contemplative mind is this beautiful sentiment of a German poet ! "The flowers, His smile !" Not the work of His hands, wrought by effort, as we are accustomed to regard all visible objects of Creation, but simply called forth from the bosom of the dark, cold earth, fitting symbols of peace and blessing.

Among all civilized nations of every age, flowers have ever been highly prized. Of such importance were they deemed in classic Greece, that Flora, the Goddess of Flowers, was one of the principal deities. In ancient Egypt, that cradle of much learning as well as of great superstition, flowers were objects of worship. Who has not heard of the Lotus-flower, the far-famed "Lily of the Nile?" Is it that some trace of the ancient sacredness still lingers around it, that modern Christians know it as the Easter lily? Even among our antipodes, the "celestials" of China, those queer adherents to ancient customs, the highest praise that can be bestowed on their beloved country, is to call it the "Flowery Kingdom."

In our own language we find many beautiful sentiments suggested by, or referring to flowers. Our "prince of poets" makes unstinted use of them to beautify his creations. Who can recall the heroine of his master-piece, the fair Ophelia, with her mind "like sweet bells jangled out of tune," without recalling too her "Rose-mary, that's for Remembrance, and Pansy, that's for Thought." Flowers have ever been regarded the sweetest emblems of innocence and peace. We gather the pure white blossoms to crown the blushing young bride ; we bring the fairest and most fragrant to strew over the silent, pallid forms of our loved as they lie before us, wrapped in the mystery of that dreamless slumber which men call Death.

In our southern country, Nature has scattered with lavish hand, flowers of every kind. In the early Spring-time, a walk in the woods of Leon would drive a Vick, or a Henderson, or other professional florist, wild with envy. High above our heads, the Magnolia lifts its splendid proportions, adorned with silvery bark and dark, rich, green leaves, brightened by its magnificent blooms, waxen white, nearly a foot in diameter, and emitting a spicy fragrance delicious and invigorating. Near it we find the Bay, a splendid specimen belonging to the same order, but its flowers are only a diminutive reflection of the beauty and glory of the Magnolia. Scattered here and there we find a Snowdrop-tree with its graceful, drooping, pure-white blossoms ; the fragrant Clove-tree ; the Sparkle-berry, with its wealth of beautiful blooms ; the quaint Gray-beard ; the Dogwood, coarse but showy, with its white flowers and scarlet berries ; the wild Honeysuckles ; the Pink-bud ; the tall Poplars, with their silvery-green leaves and large, salmon-colored flowers, and that sweetest of all woodland blossoms, the wild Crab-apple.

And the vines ! Only in this "Land of Flowers" could vines so climb and bloom. The golden bells of the Yellow Jessamine ; the crimson clusters of the Woodbine ; the snow-white tresses of an unnamed vine ; the flaming trumpets of the Virginia Trumpet creeper, with many others, mingle and blend in a harmony of disorder, which only the hand of Nature could have designed.

In low, damp places, or in the water, what beauty of leaf and flower we find : First and fairest, the beautiful white Water-lily, with its dark-green leaves, floats in quaint grace on the surface of the water. Near the margin we find the dark-blue Cluster-lily, with heart-shaped leaves, like those of the Lily of the Nile ; and near, still another kind, a delicate white lily. Near a little stream which has its source in Lake Overstreet, is found a rare and beautiful specimen of the lily. Its leaves are wide and long, and in the month of July, it sends up a stalk about twenty inches in height, and on the top of this, appears a cluster of blooms, sometimes seven in number, the most daintily formed and fragrant of all the lilies.

Around us on every side we behold myriads of flowers of every shape and color, many of them unknown and unnamed, yet so beautiful and fragrant that they would be objects of interest in any garden. A devout worshipper at the shrine of Flora would linger in a rapture of admiration among the flowers of the fields and forests of Leon.

And the gardens ! Where shall we begin to limn with our unskilled pen the glorious beauty of our flower gardens ? A tourist in Spain wrote boastfully of the Japonicas found there, which attained the height of trees. In Tallahassee a Japonica tree is no rare sight, and there is one here that was removed from Virginia, that has reached the venerable age of seventy-five years, and the height of twelve feet. And

for perfection of bloom, our Japonicas are not excelled anywhere. We know one tree, a fine specimen of the double-white, which at the time of the freeze last Winter, had on it about five hundred blooms. There are many and beautiful varieties of the Japonica found here. The white, the crimson, the scarlet, the striped, and one, a double, rose-color, which enjoys the enviable distinction of a delicious fragrance.

Where beyond the limits of Eden were ever such Roses grown as flourish here? Growing out of doors all the year round, they thrive and bloom, and bloom, and bloom, with a magnificence of size, a perfection of color and a deliciousness of odor that makes us wonder if it was not here, in the early days of Spanish adventure, that they first received the soubriquet of "Queen of Flowers."

There is a rose-bush in a garden in Tallahassee which is twelve feet in height, and the diameter of the trunk, at the height of four feet, measures twelve inches.

Then the domesticated Lilies! These fair and fragrant flowers, always regarded as symbols of purity, employed by the Savior himself as an illustration of perfection. "They toil not neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." All the known varieties are found here in great perfection; one single stalk of the white, with crimson stripes, sometimes bearing a cluster of ten large flowers.

The Jessamine is found here, in eight distinct varieties, generally growing in perfect safety out of doors through the whole year. Geraniums, Pinks, Verbenas, flowering vines of all kinds and varieties, the many annuals and perennials—nearly every flower in a florist's catalogue can be safely and satisfactorily grown here; and any one familiar with our gardens would be amused to read the descriptions of the size and height of plants, as given by reliable horticulturists. Mr. Vick describes the *Mirabilis Jalapa* or "Four O'clock," as "sometimes attaining the height of two and a half feet!" We know one, a specimen of the magenta-colored, which attained the height of seven feet, with a corresponding breadth.

Among the many plants which adorn our gardens, the most remarkable, perhaps, is the Century-plant, with its long, coarse, pale-green, sword-shaped leaves and its peculiarity of blooming, not once every hundred years as tradition teaches, but once only, and that after the age of about twenty-five years. From the centre of the cluster of leaves, a strong stalk shoots up, sometimes thirty feet in the course of six weeks, little limbs project from the sides, bearing clusters of queer, coarse-looking, yellow flowers, the whole plant presenting a striking resemblance to an immense candelabrum. But the rapid growth of the mammoth stalk and the multitude of flowers soon exhausts the vitality of the plant, and having bloomed once it invariably dies.

Among the shrubs most common we may mention the Oleander, both white and pink, Syringas, Deutzias, Spireas, Daphnes, and last, but not least, the Wood's Hydrangea, with its splendid tresses of white flowers, more than a foot in length.

The Cactus finds here a genial home; the most remarkable specimen, the Night-blooming Cereus, being no novelty with us.

Apart from the refining influence of flowers, and the grace and beauty they add to our homes, and their many attractions from an æsthetic point of view, they possess other claims to our special care, which in this prosaic age are worthy of careful consideration: they have a genuine market value, and find ready sale in our sea-board cities during the Winter months. Therefore, those among us who cannot climb to the serene heights where a love of the Beautiful is a part of Religion, may still ply with patient care the rake and hoe, those homely implements so conducive to the beauty of these dainty darlings, encouraged in our toil by the hope of the golden harvests we will reap therefrom in the "good time coming."

## XII. TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES.

The cheapest route for reaching Leon county from the West is by way of Louisville, Nashville, Montgomery, Eufaula, and the Chattahoochee river. A saving of about \$10 on each fare is made by the selection of this route; but it has some disadvantages, for the several lines of steamers on the river, instead of arranging their schedules so as to make a daily boat, as they might easily do, are engaged in constant warfare over the carriage of freights, and thus the passenger interest is neglected. From Eufaula to Thomasville, Ga., or to Live Oak, Fla., and thence by the J., P. & M. road is the next quickest route; and from the East the several railroad lines con-

verge at Savannah or Macon, and thence to Live Oak, where the railroad system of Georgia connects with the Florida roads. The coast routes from the Atlantic seaboard are very reliable and cheap, landing passengers either at Savannah, Fernandina or Jacksonville, whence the distance to Middle Florida is covered by rail.

A tri-weekly stage line is well established between Thomasville, Ga., and Tallahassee; the distance being only thirty-six miles.

The modern tourist, with his or her ponderous "Saratoga," has become so spoiled by drawing-room cars and through connections as to look with disdain on "stage lines." But let us assure those of them who still have some of the freshness of nature left in them that the drive from Thomasville, Ga., across the hill-tops, overlooking the valleys of the lake region, at a rattling pace on a hard, smooth road, in commodious and comfortable carriages, through the exceptionally beautiful country of North Leon is a delightful episode that no real tourist would miss for ten times the fare involved. We consider this by all odds the pleasantest approach to Tallahassee. Late breakfast at the Mitchell House in Thomasville, a crack of the whip, a toot of the coach-horn, a running panorama of hill and dale, forest and field, lake, stream, plantation homes, freedmen's cabins, meadows, cattle, another flourish of the driver's horn, when the delighted passenger alights at the old City Hotel, with no cinders in his eyes, but a keen appetite for his first dinner in the Flowery Land.

#### ADVICE TO TOURISTS AND IMMIGRANTS.

If you are coming from New Orleans or connecting points by rail, take the New Orleans and Mobile Railroad to Mobile; thence *via* Mobile & Montgomery Railroad to Montgomery; thence *via* Montgomery & Eufaula Railroad to Eufaula; thence *via* People's Line or Central Line boats, semi-weekly, Sundays and Thursdays, to Chattanooga; thence *via* Jacksonville, Pensacola & Mobile Railroad to Tallahassee, or by above route to Eufaula; thence *via* Smithville to Thomasville, and by stage thence to Tallahassee, or by rail from Thomasville to Live Oak, and thence *via* J., P. & M. R. R. to Tallahassee. If from Memphis or connecting points by rail direct, take the Memphis & Charleston Railroad to Chattanooga, thence *via* Atlanta, Macon, Albany and Thomasville, or Macon and Jesup to Live Oak, thence *via* J., P. & M. R. R. If from St. Louis or connecting points, take the Louisville & Nashville Railroad to Nashville, thence to Chattanooga, and thence as above. If from Louisville or Cincinnati or connecting points, take the Louisville & Nashville Railroad to Chattanooga, or *via* Cincinnati Southern to Chattanooga, and thence as above. If from Chicago and the far Northwest, take the "Kankakee Line" to Cincinnati, thence to Chattanooga, and thence as above.

Before starting, inquire for full information as to rates, time-tables, &c., at the nearest "coupon office" of any of the above-named lines; and for through tickets to Tallahassee, or if these are not on sale to the nearest of above-named points.

The best water route from the East is by Mallory's Line of Steamships from New York to Fernandina, thence *via* Transit Railroad and J., P. & M. R. R.

#### XIII. EXEMPTION LAWS, INTEREST, ETC.

The State laws exempt to every head of a family a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres in the country, or half an acre in town, together with \$1,000 worth of such personal property as the owner may select. The legal rate of interest is eight per cent., but contracts may be made for any rate. Taxes are rather high, but under the present administration have been, and are likely to be further, reduced. The treasury is solvent, paying cash on all warrants drawn against it, and the bonded debts of the State are gradually being reduced, and interest is paid thereon promptly.

The rate of State taxation for 1881, is eight mills; of county taxation, four mills, with every prospect that the increasing annual additions to the taxable property values in the State will, in a very few years, so greatly reduce taxation as to make the individual burden of the average citizen very light, if not merely nominal.

#### XIV. HUNTING AND FISHING.

The reader will recognize in the following, the work of an ardent sportsman, whose testimony is well worthy of consideration by all who seek in Florida the pleasures he describes :

Leon county affords a most excellent field for sportsmen. Our large plantations offer splendid cover and abundant food for that gamiest of all game birds, the American Quail, which are to be found more abundantly here, perhaps, than anywhere in the South. The cold of Winter is never serious enough to affect them, and except the depredations of hawks they have no drawbacks to their increase. The country is high and rolling; cover generally heavy; no timber or thicket to interfere with marking the pitch of scattered birds, and an average shot can count on a stout bag in half a day's tramp.

Among our country gentlemen we have some excellent shots, and much time is devoted to this sport from the middle of October to first of March. We think a bag of forty quail to each gun a fair day's work, over an average dog. Many second-rate dogs are to be had here, but first-class workers are scarce; and visitors will do well to bring their own dogs along.

Pointers are preferable to setters, as the Winter days are often warm for their thick hair, and the sand-spurs in some covers put a woolly dog "off his nut" in a short run.

Jack-snipe are quite abundant in some localities, but are not as plentiful as where more mud and better boring is to be found.

Duck shooting in some of its phases is to be had here in perfection. It is doubtful whether any section offers superior facilities for Wood-duck shooting. This commences about the middle of September, at which time the young ducks are full-fledged. About two hours before sun-down, from all parts of the country along the rivers, lagoons, swamps and ponds, in the thick woods, where the ducks repair during the day to feed, the flight begins toward the lakes where they go to roost. This duck flies fast, and generally in pairs or triplets, so that a good stand secured near a roosting place, makes about three hours of lively work. Somewhat later the Winter ducks—Mallard, Teal, Spoonbill, Gray Shovelers, Blue-bills and Black-duck—come in great numbers and cover the numerous lakes, ponds and feeding-places, and stay with us until February.

But the perfection of sport is found in shooting the *Scaup* or Blue-bills—called generally Bull-necks or Black-heads. In our mind this Duck requires more skill to be brought to bag than anything that flies. Alexander in his work on game-birds gets off some tall calculating on the rapidity of flight, and difficulty of killing a Teal which is going down wind. But a Black-head can give any Teal that ever flew the right of way, stop at all way stations and then come in ahead of time; and the man that gets the "time allowance" business down fine enough to "flag" these fellows on the down-grade, knows what he's about. They are shot entirely from stands. They stoof admirably, but that is rarely necessary to secure good shooting. Last Winter I saw the best shot in this county get rid of one hundred shells before nine o'clock A. M., at the morning flight on Lake Iamonia. Well! I won't tell about the bag; it was heavy, but it would not have used a man up to have carried it.

Deer are no longer numerous in the county. In some localities a good drive or two remain, where some sport can be had, but excellent hunting—both still, driving and with fire-pau—can be had near the coast, say ten to twenty miles away; and some of our citizens are in the habit of going there constantly for venison.

Wild Turkeys are somewhat more numerous, but to take them successfully is an art that the modern sportsman with his breech-loader, &c., seldom masters.

Black Bear and Panther are to be found along the Ocklocknee and St. Marks rivers, and are abundant in the swamps along the coast.

Squirrels, Rabbits, Reed-birds, Doves, and such plunder as are not legitimately game, are abundant.

The laws entitle land-owners to post their premises against hunters, and this is



frequently done ; but it is more to protect loose stock from a prowling musket in the hands of an idle negro than any other purpose ; and we have yet to learn of a farmer's forbidding a gentleman to shoot over his cover, when permission was politely asked. The roads are hard and excellent for driving, and generally one can drive a buggy for miles through the open plantations, where there are few fences or ditches to impede his progress ; which is a wonderful convenience in transporting lunch, ammunition, tired dogs, and "medicine," which it is always well to have along in case of snake bites.

Our lakes and rivers abound in fine Fish, prominent among which are Lake Bass (called Trout here), that sometimes weigh twelve pounds, Jack, Pike, Bream, many varieties of Perch, Catfish and Blackfish, besides both hard and soft-shell Turtle, the former called "Cootah ;" and for cultivated tastes we have the Alligator.

At St. Marks, twenty-one miles off by rail, all the varieties of salt-water Fish are abundant and cheap, as are Oysters and Crabs. Our markets are well supplied with them at all seasons.

The Oysters taken at Apalachicola and Rio Carrabelle on James Island, are pronounced by some of the best judges to be superior in size and flavor to any on the Atlantic coast, excepting, possibly, the small, deep-water Port Royal Oyster ; while those brought from the nearer Gulf coast are, although smaller, of most excellent quality.

#### XV. LABOR.

Our main resource for labor is the colored race ; and up to this time we have had an ample supply to meet the agricultural demand. A large portion of these people, since the late war, have cultivated the lands under the tenant system, and by wasteful and injudicious farming, when left to themselves, have found their operations thus conducted unremunerative ; and large numbers of them are now leaving the farms and seeking a new field of labor upon the various railroads now being constructed throughout the country. This will leave a large body of valuable land vacant, and present to the enterprising immigrant a most inviting field for his energy and capital. The prices of labor vary, as elsewhere, with the capacity of the laborer. Ordinary colored field-hands get from fifty to sixty cents per day, while an industrious and intelligent white man, working the same time, would be worth, and easily command, much higher wages.

#### XVI. LANDS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

The area of Leon county embraces about 460,800 acres. About 180,000 acres of this territory consists of pine lands, lying in the southern portion of the county, extending northward to a line running east and west across the county through the second tier of sections in the townships south of the base line.

The soil of these pine lands is light and sandy, underlaid, at an average depth of six inches, with clay sub-soil of great thickness. Both sub-soil and top-soil contain great quantities of lime and marine deposits that give to them a degree of fertility and lasting qualities that make them invaluable for farming purposes. They are covered with a heavy growth of yellow pine that affords an excellent supply of saw-logs, and being traversed by the Tallahassee and St. Marks Railroad, they invite investments in saw-mills. The pine lands of Leon county are all high and dry. No draining is necessary to bring them into use. Small but deep, pure water lakes are numerous in the section, and many bold creeks afford good water powers. This region is considered especially healthy, and the appearance of the farms indicate thrift and prosperity.

The balance of the county, embracing about 280,800 acres, and occupying the area north of an east and west line indicated above and extending to the Georgia line, is of an entirely different character, being of volcanic origin and of much greater age than the pine section. This is *par excellence* the agricultural section of the county.

The soil is a deep, red clay, rich in mineral salts, and is exceedingly fertile, and possessed of astonishingly *lasting* properties. It is very high, gently undulating, thor-

oughly drained, entirely destitute of swamp or marsh lands, dotted with lakes of great depth and considerable dimensions, whose banks rise from thirty to one hundred and fifty feet above their surface. Excellent springs of pure and cool water abound. The timber, where left standing, consists of Red, White, Post and Live Oaks, Hickory, Ash, Wild Cherry, Dogwood, Sweet-gum, Maple, Poplar, Magnolia, Red-bay, and many other less important hard woods. Much the larger portion of these rich lands are cleared, and have been under cultivation for many years: some since 1825, though the greatest inroads were made on the forests along about 1824 to 1844, by an influx of large planters with their force of slaves from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

This section, combining as it does the qualities of productiveness with perfect healthfulness and picturesque beauty, especially recommended itself to the early settlers of the country, and has been for forty years the source of wealth and comfort for which Leon has been so long noted.

All the cereals are grown with reasonable success and profit. Cotton, Tobacco and Sugar have long been leading crops. Vegetables and fruits of all kinds, except the tender, semi-tropical varieties, are produced cheaply and abundantly. Grasses for both hay and permanent pasturage grow to great perfection. The water is pure and good; the road-ways hard and smooth: the seasons regular and propitious, and the climate as near an "even thing" as it can be anywhere.

Of the two characters of land described above, the surveys show there are still vacant in the county and subject to entry as U. S. and State lands, about 60,000 acres; but all public lands left in Leon county are comparatively valueless for farming purposes, and consist in most instances of the borders of lakes, really under water, but improperly represented on the maps, by careless surveying, as arable land. Some of the tracts of public land are in the pine region and are valuable for timber.

The desirable lands of Leon being generally in the hands of private owners, who, in most instances, hold them by inheritance from their grand-fathers who originally entered them, could not have been purchased in ante-bellum times except at enormous prices.

The very unreliable character of labor, as supplied by the freedmen, has of late years made the conduct of planting interests, on the extensive scale once so general, unprofitable, and the ownership of large tracts undesirable; and these excellent farm lands, already cleared and ready for the seed and plow, are coming into market in large and small tracts, at prices and on terms peculiarly attractive to immigrants; and when this fact becomes known, together with the real character of these lands, as imperfectly described above, we confidently predict a "boom" for old Leon that will "make the natives stare." Then it will be that the orange-grower of the East and South will turn over to us, his nearest neighbors, a good slice of the profits of his "grove" for meat, bread, hay, feed, butter and work-stock, that his sandy soil and tropical sun precludes his making profitably for himself.

#### PRICES OF LAND

Differ according to locality, quantity and amount taken. The rich, red lands of the northern portion of the county can be purchased at from \$2.50 to \$10.00 per acre, according to improvements and size of tract. Nearer the depots, prices range from \$6.00 to \$20.00, and, in immediate vicinity of towns, from \$20.00 to \$50.00 per acre. Terms generally involve partial credits with legal interest, eight per cent.

In the pine section prices are lower, ranging from 50 cents to \$10, owing to improvements and proximity to depots. Land agencies are not numerous or active, but

parties can easily reach owners of lands for sale through the State Bureau of Immigration, or the officers of the Leon County Farmers' Club.

#### XVII. CONCLUSION.

The foregoing pages comprise a fair and honest exhibit of some of the principal advantages offered by Leon county to the intending settler in Florida. It is the first thoroughly organized effort to attract immigration to the county, and has received, after mature deliberation, the universal approval of all classes of our citizens, who, seeing the advantages which have accrued to other sections of the South and the State from the influx of a new population, chiefly from the Northern and Northwestern States, have recognized the necessity of its encouragement, and determined to open wide the doors of their beloved, rich and beautiful country, and invite those of their fellow-countrymen from all parts of the Union who are contemplating a change of residence to our delightful and health-giving climate, to make new homes amongst us.

Middle Florida has taken a new lease of life; and instead of its former tendency to indifference of the glorious consequences of progress and advancement, evidences abound on every side of improvement, energy and activity in the important work of rehabilitation.

This tendency is not only manifested in Leon county, where new residences, new fences, improved farm machinery and implements, better methods of cultivation and domestic economy prevail, but is signally displayed in Tallahassee, the county seat, where many improvements are in progress; among them a large and handsome new hotel, now nearly completed, and a new court-house, to cost some \$15,000, which is to be placed under contract for construction immediately.

The preparation of this pamphlet has been accomplished by the many members of the Leon County Farmers' Club. None of these gentlemen are land agents or speculators, yet any and all of them will cheerfully answer inquiries addressed to them upon any subjects connected with matters discussed therein. The following named persons are good authorities upon the subjects named. They may be addressed at Tallahassee:

*Lands, quality, character, prices, &c.*—R. C. Long and C. C. Pearce.

*Stock-raising*—Dr. Wm. H. Bradford and Col. John Bradford.

*Sheep-raising*—G. G. Gibbs and D. W. Gwynn.

*Dairy-farming*—J. P. Aphorpe and R. F. Bradford.

*Truck-farming*—Col. John Bradford, Dr. William H. Bradford, W. H. Haskell and H. M. Noble.

*Fruit-growing*—W. H. Haskell, John A. Craig, B. S. Herring and John R. Bradford.

*Farming*—R. A. Whitfield, G. G. Gibbs, Thos. J. Roberts and Capt. P. Hous-toun.

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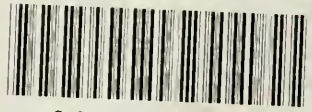








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