

slight taste of bitter mingled with a mild acid. We were told that it is sometimes used as a mild tonic when slight symptoms of malaria appear, certainly it is more agreeable to the palate than quinine. A few lemon trees are also grown in this grove, but our impression is that the lemon thrives better in more tropical portions of the State.



BANANA.

Bananas were growing on one side of this orchard skirting the river bank. On some of them we found bunches of fruit, and on one a flower bud. The process of inflorescence of this plant is quite novel. The large purple flower bud hanging from its recurved stem is in truth, so far as it meets the eye, a large purple spathe infolding a ring of fertile flowers arranged around a central stem. This purple spathe gradually unfolds disclosing a circlet of young bananas, and beneath them another purple spathe which in its turn unfolds, disclosing another circlet of fruit, beneath which is yet another spathe with its infolded contents. This process is

continued until the bunch of fruit is completed with its several clusters or circles of fruit. The banana is very sensitive to frost, hence the crop is very uncertain in this part of Florida, for frosts do sometimes visit this region with sufficient severity to injure the orange trees. Of this we had evidence in the mutilated condition of some of the older trees in this grove. It will be difficult to find a place where the labors of the fruit grower are not sometimes frustrated by untoward causes. Much has been said by interested parties in Florida about the frost line, below which there is no frost, but the writer is fully persuaded that no such line exists. There has been and there will be again winters of unusual severity, when the frost will be sufficiently severe to seriously injure vegetation. We are credibly informed that in February 1835, the St. John's River was frozen for several rods from the shore and the thermometer indicated seven degrees above zero, Fahrenheit, at St. Augustine. And again in January 1857, the mercury fell to sixteen above zero at Jacksonville.

But the weather was delightful at the time of our visit to this grove, and after our feet were weary with wandering through it, we sat down to enjoy the soft breezes, and look at the overshadowing arches of green so richly studded with gold. Surely Solomon must have been thinking of oranges when he spoke of apples of gold. The scene presented to our view, and the whole of the surroundings were not only new but novel, and novelty adds much to the zest of enjoyment. We had all of us seen more gorgeous sunsets than the one now brightening the western sky, and listened to the vesper hymn of birds as melodious as that which now was warbled on the evening air; we had gazed on scenery more grand and quite as beautiful as that now