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AN ORNITHOLOGICAL INCURSION INTO FLORIDA, FEBRUARY, 1900.

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To the casual northerner Florida is Florida, a land of oranges and palms, but the tourist finds that his ticket, which is for Jacksonville, lands him at almost the northernmost and least interesting part, and that to reach a truly tropical zone he must travel at least 200, and better 300, miles further down the coast at a cost of four cents a mile each way. When that is done, he finds the Florida of the guide books, but for at least 175 miles south of Jacksonville the orange industry has been killed by the annually recurring frosts, and the vegetation of the tropics is absent.

The extreme dampness of the atmosphere on the Atlantic coast is best illustrated by the growth of the most interesting fern of the country, the Hoary Polypody, *Polypodium incanum*. Although the house-roofs have not a steep slope, and the sun must be nearly vertical for part of the year, yet the northern half of the roofs of most of the older houses in St. Augustine was covered with this fern, growing in the moss which seemed to find an easy lodgment there. Floridians call it the Resurrection Fern, from its habit of curling up and exposing the hoary back of the frond in dry weather, and reopening flat and green on the return of dampness. In the woods of this moist climate the Live Oak, *Quercus virens*, attains an enormous spread of branches. I frequently walked twenty paces from the trunk to the tip of a long branch which would not rise more than twenty-five feet from the ground. This would give a total diameter of 120 feet, about double the height of the tree, and greater than that of most of the forest trees