

FLORIDA IN WINTER.

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A further sail of some seventy-five miles up the St. John's River brings us to Palatka. Here we spend the day in looking about and visiting the orange grove of Mr. H. L. Hart, on the opposite side of the river. Through the politeness of one of the principal merchants, we were permitted to visit his country seat just out of the town. Here we found the first pear trees we had seen in Florida. They did not seem at home in this sand-bank, and were barely able to live. The Drummond Phlox had evidently escaped from cultivation and was in blossom almost everywhere. But such plants as they were, one short, straight wiry stalk, with a little umbel of flowers on the top, so starved looking, one could not help pitying the poor things. But the young orange trees looked vigorous and healthy, so that one must conclude that pure white sand suits their constitution. The vegetable garden was located very near to the bank of the river, where the ground was damp and the soil full of leaf mould. The vegetables did not seem to know what to do with themselves, but were apparently debating the question whether to grow or not to grow. The rose garden was filled with many choice varieties, chiefly the ever-blooming sorts, and had the same lack of fine foliage and vigorous healthy look which we had noticed at Jacksonville and St. Augustine; nevertheless they were well filled with bloom.

A little, puffing steam tug took us across the river to Mr. Hart's orange grove. It contains about three thousand trees, not all of them yet in bearing. We found Mr. Sperry, the manager, and introducing ourselves, received from him a very cordial welcome. He accompanied us through the grounds and patiently answered our numerous questions. Here we found three varie-

ties of oranges were being cultivated, but chiefly the variety known in our northern markets as the Florida orange. The other kinds are known as the Mandarin and Tangerine. These sell at high prices in New York city during the holidays, being in demand for their social entertainments, because when peeled the quarters fall readily apart and ladies can eat them without soiling their gloves. The Mandarin is a small growing tree, having much finer foliage than the common variety, but the Tangerine seems to grow as large as the common kind. The trees are nearly all out of flower and the young fruit set for the new crop, and yet most of the trees are laden still with ripe fruit. The oranges ripen in November and are gathered as wanted from that time until April. If any remain as late as April they are then gathered and sent to market. It is very convenient to be able to store the fruit on the trees through the winter and gather it as required either for personal use or for sale. One orange tree was shewn us by Mr. Sperry of larger size than any of the other trees whose crop in one year he stated to have been six thousand oranges.

Here we made the acquaintance of a fruit of the citrus family known as grape fruit. The name seemed very inappropriate, for we could see no manner of resemblance to a grape, neither in the fruit nor the tree that bore the fruit. To our inquiry why the name was given to a fruit usually larger than an orange and nearly of the color of a lemon, Mr. Sperry replied that he supposed that it was because the fruit was borne in such clusters, reminding one by their number and proximity of grapes on a bunch. Well, perhaps this is the reason; it will do in absence of a better, but he was certainly a most imaginative genius that perceived the similarity. This grape fruit is very juicy, with a