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TERMS.

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FROM THE SAVANNAH GEORGIAN.

From our acquaintance with the writer of the following remarks, and his opportunities of obtaining information on the subject of which he treats, we have no doubt of his correctness.

DESCRIPTION OF EAST-FLORIDA.

ITS CLIMATE, SOIL, PRODUCTIONS, RIVERS, BARS, BAYS, &c. &c.

East-Florida is a perfect peninsula, extending from north to the south about a hundred and twenty leagues, from the river St. Mary's, which, in about 30 degrees north latitude, separates it from the American state of Georgia, to the point of Tancha or Cape Sable, lying in about 26 degrees north latitude, beyond which, at the entrance of the new channel of Bahama, are situated the Martyrs and Keys; its greatest breadth from east to west, is about eighty leagues, and its least, towards the cape, is forty; being washed on the east by the Atlantic and sail channel of Bahama, and on the west by the gulf of Mexico.

This province contains about six or seven millions of acres, from which, deducting an eighth part for the many rivers, spacious lakes, and extensive morasses, it is computed that it is capable, with time, care and industry, to maintain conveniently a million of souls.

It is so happily situated between the said seas, that it enjoys a continual ventilation which mitigates the heat of summer, and it experiences at the same time, in winter, that degree of cold, and from time to time, frost, towards the 28th degree, which are so conducive to health & vigor, and which cause this country very justly (particularly the neighborhood of St. Augustine,) to be considered the most salubrious of the continent; so much so, that when a British colony, it was much preferred to from the West-Indies & North-America, as a specific for the infirmities resulting from the intense heat of the one, and the excessive cold of the other.

A country so much boasted of cannot but contain a great variety of soil; a sandy quality prevails for the distance of about ten leagues from the coast, where it begins to be consistent, and gradually undulates. In digging, four distinct qualities of soil are commonly found: the first is a light layer of rich earth, which is immediately followed by another of sand, of about a yard deep, under which is one of white clay, about four feet thick, good for manuring light lands; and the fourth is a stratum of white sand or concretion of sea shells, which hardens when exposed to the air, and is the same with that of which the town and fort of St. Augustine are built.

All along the coast, and particularly at the distance of seven leagues from the sea, there is a considerable quantity of low oozy lands, yielding a sort of grass which is very good for black cattle and horses. The borders of the rivers, and generally the whole country, are interspersed with lands that are at all seasons more or less overflowed, some of them are two leagues long and one wide, and their bottom is so firm and solid, that, though the depth of water varies, they may be traversed in any direction without the least risk or danger. Trees of every description arrive to the greatest perfection in these places, and experience has demonstrated that when cleared and drained, they are well adapted to the culture of rice, indigo, and sugar.

In describing the eastern coast of this peninsula, we will begin to the northward, with the river and harbor of St. Mary's, situated in 30 d. 47 m. north lat. whose embouchure, between the Spanish Island Amelia, and the American Island Cumberland, is about a mile wide. There are 3 fathoms of water on its bar at low water, and four at full tide; its harbor, situated on the Spanish side, is the best to be met with from the gulf of Mexico to the capes of Virginia, and consequently, with the aid of an interior communication by water with Nassau, and St. John's rivers, the most proper to cause the commerce of the province to flourish, and shelter vessels in distress passing to and from the West Indies and North-America.

The Island of Amelia, is five leagues long from north to south, & one wide; and its soil, particularly to the southward, is very fertile. St. Mary's river is navigable for vessels about twenty leagues up, to the ferry, where the principal road of the province passes into Georgia; the centre of the river is the line that divides the two countries, and its navigation of course is free to both. The borders of said river, and the Island of Amelia, produce live oak and cedar, and their soil is in general, as good as any in the northern part of the province.

Five leagues to the southward of St. Mary's harbor, are the bar and river of Nasau; there are eight or nine feet water on the bar, at low water, and at high water, six or seven feet more; this bar is situated between said island of Amelia, and another called Talbot; the river, though navigable, only extends about eight leagues, and its banks, particularly towards its source, are fertile, covered with tall pines, and various excellent sorts of timber.

In following the coast another league and a half, which composes the extent of Talbot Island, you meet with another bar, which separates the latter island from another called St. George, both of which contain plantable lands; this last bar is accessible to small boats only. The island of St. George runs a league to the southward, where it forms the northern extremity of St. John's bar, the southern one being formed by the continent.

St. John's is the principal river of the province, and does not cede to any other in North America, in point of utility, amenity, or copiousness of its waters. Its source, tho' not yet ascertained with any degree of precision, is not, it is presumed, far distant from Cape Florida. The truth is, that independent of the traditional report, current among the Indians, of the possibility of passing in a canoe, by that river, from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico, modern maps lay down smaller ones towards the great lake called Mayaco, where two rivers take their source, called, according to the said maps, the one St. Mary's and the other Delaware, which empty themselves into the Gulf to the eastward of Cape Romain, in the bay of Juan Ponce de Leon. There is commonly nine or ten feet water on the bar, and the high water from fourteen to fifteen. The breadth of the river varies, not exceeding a league, nor less than a mile, as far as Lake George, which is about seven leagues long and one wide. Its current is so placid that vessels meet with no difficulty whatever in ascending, and its navigation is unimpeded for the distance of seventy leagues, comprising Lake George, for all vessels whose draft permits them to get over the bar. Its borders, covered in all their extent, with an admirable variety of trees, present a diversity of soil that betters as you ascend, and already very excellent at the distance of twenty-five leagues from its embouchure. These lands are very fertile, on account of the great number of streams and sources by which they are watered; some of which are of mineral and distinct qualities, and some again forming canals navigable for boats and flats.

There is an inland passage between George and Talbot islands and the continent, which communicates with Nausau river, and passing between Amelia and the Main, falls into St. Mary's harbor, so that by means of this passage, all the produce of the St. John's may be transported in perfect security to the harbor of St. Mary's.

This river was from the beginning the principal aim of the British settlers, who were chiefly people of distinction and merit, and they gained enormously by their establishments; but at this epoch, there is hardly a trace left of their industry and enterprise.

From St. John's bar to that of St. Augustine, distance twelve leagues, it is a continued hard beach, and in appearance the same with the rest of the coast. Between this beach on the north, and the island of St. Anastasia on the south, is situated the bar of St. Augustine, which is very dangerous, and in no manner to be attempted by vessels drawing more than eight feet water, its depth being only six feet at low and about twelve feet at high water: add to this the disagreeable circumstance that it is always shifting, and that experience has demonstrated that its waters are progressively diminishing, so that in time it will close, and become entirely impracticable, if no effort is made to keep it open. To remove this evil, the best expedient would be the execution of the project of uniting Pablo Creek, situated on the south bank of the St. John's, 2 leagues from the bar, with North river or St. Marks. This last river runs inland from the town of St. Augustine, seven leagues towards Pablo creek, the distance so cut does not exceed seven miles, and the ground between them is so low that in heavy falls of rain, & high spring tides, their waters meet.

The English adopted the same plan, and were on the eve of executing it when the war broke out. The construction of such a canal would, doubtless, be attended with a good effect, as it would conduct a great body of water against the bar of St. Augustine, which would efficaciously contribute to clear it. St. Augustine, whose commerce cannot materially improve on account of the bar, would be greatly benefited by this canal, as a free intercourse would be opened with the St. John's, Nausau, and St. Mary's harbors.

The land round St. Augustine, though from appearance the poorest in the country, produces good vegetables, also sweet and bitter oranges in great abundance.

The island of St. Anastasia, extends six leagues southward, its northern extremity covering the town of St. Augustine, and forming the bay. Its greatest breadth is something more than a league, and its least somewhat less than a half.

It contains valuable stone quarries, such as before described, and its soil though not very fertile, is excellent for stock, and is susceptible of improvement. It is separated from the continent by Matanzas river, which is about a mile wide, and terminates at the southern extremity of the island in a bar of the same name with the river, over which boats of ten tons burden may pass; opposite the town, on the northernmost extremity of the island, nearly there is an old tower, from which they signal all vessels in sight of the coast, their bearings and the course they steer; within the bar of Matanzas there is a small fort, situated on a small island or shell bank, which it is impossible to surprise.

From Matanzas fort to Mosquito river is about thirteen leagues; in the neighborhood of this river, particularly New-Smyrna, was the southernmost district established by the British, beyond which they never cultivated, bringing from Europe for that purpose about fifteen hundred Minorcans, Italians and Greeks, of all ages and sexes. Those unfortunate and deluded people were conducted by a barbarian, who, though a Scotchman, must have been tutor-

ed in Turkey, and he treated them with still greater cruelty than the Turks do their slaves. Tasks impossible for human exertion to perform, were assigned to them, and every fault was chastised with a complement of inexorable rigor. To this may be added that their food was insufficient for their sustenance, and that they were considered in common with creatures born dependent, and obliged to serve without any prospect of a term to their sufferings. Thus victims to a Nero, who from avarice became blind to his own interest, their primitive number was, in a few years, reduced to about five hundred. At length, however, their groans reached the British government, they were declared free in the year 1777, and are the same who form at this day the principal part of the inhabitants of the city. They are a sober, active and industrious people, and offer well founded hopes of becoming a useful branch of population.

Mosquito bar is much better than that of St. Augustine. Two rivers meet immediately inside, both navigable for good sized vessels, the one seventy leagues southward, where it terminates in a lake, and the other eight leagues towards St. Augustine.

From Mosquito to Cape Carnaveral is twelve leagues; this coast is dangerous for mariners, and makes a very considerable bend on this side of the cape. This is the common track of small vessels bound from St. Augustine to Havana, and having made the cape, they steer along the coast the distance of seventy leagues for Vizcaino Key, thence sailing through innumerable low islets and keys, besides those properly called the Martyrs, they finally fall into the Gulf of Mexico.

The interior of the Peninsula, from cape Carnaveral to the point of Tancha, or Cape Sable, and from that to the bay of Apalache, is little or not at all known, only that both the eastern and western coasts are intersected by many rivers, streams, and inlets, and well covered with every description of oak, laurel, vine, &c. There is also many bays and harbors in the Gulf of Mexico, such as the bays or harbors of Juan Ponce de Leon and Charlotta, also the port of Tamper or bay of Espirito Santo, which the British intended to fortify, and which was formerly frequented by fishermen from the island of Cuba.

To the foregoing description it is necessary to add that East Florida produces, or is capable of producing, all sorts of fruit common to the opposite regions of the north & south, and even wheat grows luxuriantly between the river St. John and the Apalache.

To individualize the different productions of the province proper to establish a source of commerce, and consequently to enrich an industrious population, would be forming a work of labor and magnitude, it will therefore suffice to enumerate some, such as all sorts of timber, whether for construction, building, or furniture; pines of every description, red and white cedar, cypress, ash, Spanish cedar, red mahogany, hickory, oaks of all kinds, oars, bay staves, &c. it also produces a shrub from which is extracted a substance that may be converted into sugar; likewise various kinds of fruit trees, such as white, black, and brown mulberry, lime, lemon, fig, peach, cherry, with sweet, bitter-sweet and sour oranges.

Among an infinite variety of plants, is distinguished a sort of myrtle, which when pounded and steeped in water, produces a substance of a most lively green, and is from its consistency, good for candles in a warm country; this with industry might constitute a useful branch of commerce. Bees-wax & honey, with some application, might also be made in equal abundance.

Sassafras, senna, sarsaparilla, china root, and various other sorts of shrubs, plants, and medicinal herbs, are spontaneous productions of the

soil, and also barilla in a much greater abundance than in any other country whatever.

There is a plant known by the name of prickly pear, which yields an incredible quantity of cochineal. The most sterile and sandy parts of the province, are well adapted for the culture of black-seed cotton.

Indigo grows wild all over the country, the British cultivated it with success, and its quality was superior to any produced in South-Carolina.

The great abundance of the mulberry tree, and the mildness of the climate, insure a great facility in the cultivation of the silk worm.

The British attempted to make sugar in the neighborhood of Mosquito, and no doubt can be entertained, but they would have succeeded in that southern section where the frost has little or no effect.

Rice would also constitute a capital branch of commerce, for experience has proved that this article produced in Florida, is better than that of South Carolina; and it is evident that the borders of the St. John's alone, in proportion to the water they command, would yield in a much greater abundance, than the same complement would do in South Carolina.

In all the rivers, bays, creeks, and along the coast there is an incredible quantity of fish of every description, of superior delicacy of taste; also turtles, green &c. oysters, and every variety of the testaceous fish.

SURPRISING ACCIDENT.

Having seen a piece in your paper concerning a wonderful bridge in the western district over the Genesee river, put me in mind of a surprising accident which happened at that place not long since to a person who was employed in building said bridge.

A person in attempting to drive a wooden pin with a sledge, and unfortunately fell 30 feet, then struck upon a point of ground which projected over the river. From thence he took a different direction, and falling 47 feet, struck on some timbers; but they not having the effect to stop him, he continued his course 83 feet further, where he struck his head and upper part of his body in water, and his feet upon the land; but not receiving any injury except the dislocation of his shoulder, as soon as he struck, he sprang up and exclaimed, "I am not dead yet!"

Ruthard Hecald.

ORDINATION.

The Rev. Thomas Shepard, was ordained to the work of the ministry in Ashfield, Mass. on the 16th of June. Mr. Porter, senior pastor of the Church, is in his hundredth year. He was able to ascend the pulpit without assistance, lay his hand on the head of his young colleague in the consecrating prayer, and attend to all the exercises. In his charge he was audible, distinct, and appropriate; the audience preserved profound silence, and were deeply affected by the dying address of this very aged servant of Christ. Perhaps a similar occurrence was never before witnessed in New-England, and never will be again.

Of Prior's behavior in the lighter parts of life, it is too late to get much intelligence. During his emigration he sat at the Opera by a man, who in his rapture, accompanied with his own voice the principal singer. Prior fell to railing at the performer with all the terms of reproach that he could collect, till the man, ceasing from his song, began to expostulate with him for his harsh censure of a man who was confessedly the ornament of the stage. "I know all that," says the ambassador, "but he sings so loud, that I cannot hear you."

For Sale,

A LIKELY NEGRO WOMAN, & Child—Enquire of the Printer. Aug. 28.—3w75