

**A WINTER IN FLORIDA; OR, OBSERVATIONS
ON THE SOIL, CLIMATE, AND PRODUCTS OF
OUR SEMI-TROPICAL STATE; WITH
SKETCHES OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS AND
CITIES IN EASTERN FLORIDA. TO WHICH IS
ADDED A BRIEF HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

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A Winter in Florida; Or, Observations on the Soil, Climate, and Products of Our Semi-Tropical State; With Sketches of the Principal Towns and Cities in Eastern Florida. To Which Is Added a Brief Historical Summary by Ledyard Bill

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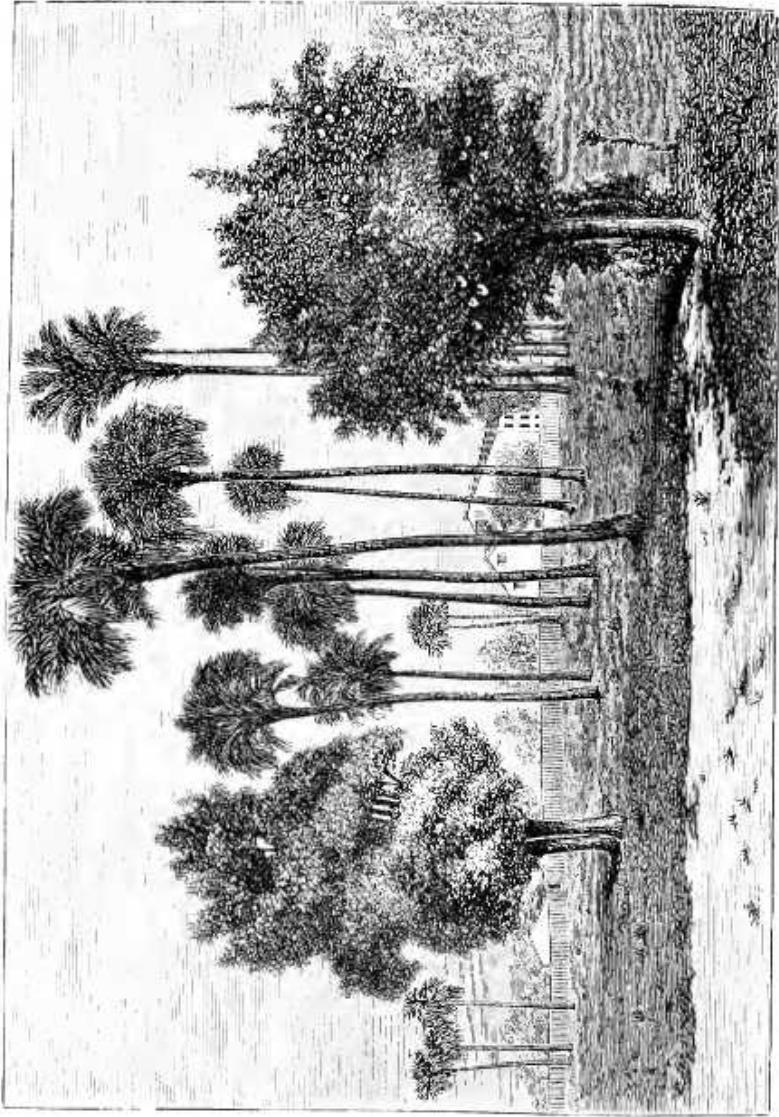
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LEDYARD BILL

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TOGETHER WITH

HINTS TO THE TOURIST, INVALID, AND SPORTSMAN.

By LEDYARD BILL.

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THIS VOLUME
IS CORDIALLY INSCRIBED
TO
E. L. B.,
BY THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE tour of which this volume is the record was an unforeseen one, the sudden illness of a friend having been the occasion of our visit to Florida.

Diligent inquiry brought to light no work on the State, whereby we might be guided. Beyond several historical summaries, given the public a quarter of a century since, there was absolutely nothing worthy of mention; and even these were valueless except to the historical student, anxious only to know its colonial history and status up to the period of its acquisition

by the United States. To in some measure supply this deficiency has been the object of our labors.

Florida is the oldest settled portion of the Union, notwithstanding which it is the most of a wilderness. Especially is this true of the eastern half, which was the portion visited by us, and to which we have in the main confined ourselves.

The history of the State is renowned, from its first settlement to its annexation, for its many battles and conquests, in which the victors of to-day were among the vanquished on the morrow; and thus its masters alternated for centuries, leaving little else behind them than vestiges of their occupation. But, since our Government has held possession, much has been accomplished in material prosperity and in increase of population: still, three-fourths of the land