

**THE FLORIDA OF TO-DAY:
A GUIDE FOR TOURISTS
AND SETTLERS**

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The Floria of To-Day: A Guide for Tourists and Settlers by James Wood Davidson

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JAMES WOOD DAVIDSON

**THE FLORIA OF TO-DAY:
A GUIDE FOR TOURISTS
AND SETTLERS**

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"FLORIDA OF TO-DAY,"

*A GUIDE FOR TOURISTS
AND SETTLERS*

BY
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WITH MAPS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

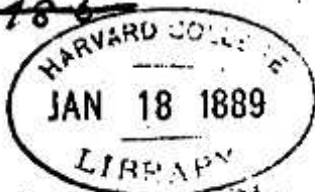
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THE FLORIDA OF TO-DAY.

I.

HISTORY.

THE early history of Florida—its discoveries, conquests, reconquests, cessions, and retrocession—is as varied and spirited as a romance.

Discoveries.—It is agreed generally among the historians that Ponce de Leon was the first of the several discoverers. This romantic and enterprising adventurer, hunting the phantasmal Isle of Bimini—one writer calls it Boiaca—with its precious fountain of youth, failed indeed to find that, but reached the coast of Florida just north of where St. Augustine now is, on Easter-Sunday, the 27th of March, 1512. He landed the 2d of April, and named the country, known to the Indians as Cantio, **FLORIDA**, from Pascua Florida, the day of his discovery. Mr. Fairbanks, however, states that the discovery was made on *Palm-Sunday*. Ponce de Leon did little