

New York Methodist Review.

Previous to the war of '61, though sparsely populated, it was a slave State, and made some progress in the prevailing southern industrial system. It had several rich iron counties, the Tallahassee region, settled by many cultured families from North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, and many extensive cotton plantations, and a large trade in the timber of the island variety, requiring the toil of a negro for the production of each bale. Along the St. John's, the Indian River, around the Gulf of Mexico, and the coast of the peninsula, the rich hammocks were cleared for the production of the sugar cane. On the Gulf coast, in the region of Manatee, was the Gamble, afterwards known as the Gamble plantation, which was an extensive and best-equipped plantation in Florida. Fourteen hundred acres of rich hammock land had been cleared at an expense of seventy-five dollars per acre, and the plantation was worked by which was worked by two hundred slaves. A sugar refinery, with all needed appliances, costing half a million, completed the outfit. It was one of the large enterprises of the South, and the majority of the proprietors, left the State. The

also earn for the cart, liberally treated for the convenience of the owner, and also carry for the beast, with provision and blankets for several nights of camping out; the proprietor attends the mule, and some members of his family assist him in guiding him through the interesting procession. That neighbors of recent settlement on the "poorest lands" have beautiful yards, fruitful gardens, and orange groves bending with the weight of fruit, is a striking evidence of consideration to this conservative class.

A new era, with steadily increasing brightness and promise, has dawned on Florida, during the last fifteen years. The abolition of slavery, lessening the number of plantations, the climate, beauty of the country, its equable climate, general salubrity, and wealth of its native and cultivated products, began, about the close of the war, to attract the attention of the nation's tourists. New settlements and towns have been springing up with great rapidity in all parts of the State for a number of years, and the signs of improvement are everywhere manifest. The yearly cultivation of our entire territory. About a year and a half ago, Mr. Hamilton Dixon, of

manufactures, rice mills, etc., give evidence on every hand that a period of bustling activity has been reached in the life of the wilderness. But the chief hope of the State lies in the high character of the families now so rapidly pressing into it. The early era of searching for a bonanza and despoiling the wilderness has been over. The more adventurous classes have turned their feet to other haunts. Sober, studious people of American birth, who know what they are about, are coming in. They are not here to purchase or make their improvements, are now crowding all the life of travel. Thrifty, genial families from the North, East, West, and from the South, are coming in. One of the best places to find as choice society in Duval, Volusia, or Orange Counties, and around all the great lakes of Sumter County, as can be found in the most remote parts of the State, is the success of literary and professional men. In nearly every community will be found a clergyman, lawyer, physician, teacher, or some other specialist, who has come to Florida to save his life. The world has since voted every minister a failure outside

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TO BE CONTINUED.

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