

sult: two by confession and immersion, also one reclaimed at a previous meeting. There is no organization of the Church of Christ at this point. The Methodists have an organization which embraces the larger part of this community, some of which know but little of the teaching as was presented by Bro. Callison. An interest is being manifested by many and a researching of the Scriptures to see if this teaching be so. Bro. Callison is comparatively young in the ministry, yet his deductions are conclusive, pointed and well guarded by such authority as cannot be successfully gain-sayed. He is laboring here with no hope of remuneration, other than the upbuilding of the Master's cause. May the Lord bless his labors at this and other points to which he may be called.

Your brother,

J. W. PARKS.

Letter from Florida.

CITY POINT, FLORIDA,

Nov. 27. 1882.

Dear Brother:

Now shall I tell you something of Florida? I was not very favorably impressed with it until I got to Indian river. The portion of it over which the R. R. passed in coming to Jacksonville was low swampy, and unproductive, covered with scrub palmetto, pines and water oaks. Jacksonville is a rather pretty, but much smaller place than I expected to see, now improving rapidly. The St. John's river runs through a flat country also, most of the land on its banks looks to me to be useless for man or beast, grown up with a tall coarse grass, six to twelve feet high resembling cane cottage palmetto. Oaks and pines are the principal growth. The oaks and other trees except the palmettos are thickly covered with a long, greenish, grey moss, giving them the appearance of being heavily draped. One almost imagines them clad in mourning over the desolate country on which they grow. A few fertile spots occasionally greet the eye, with a few orange groves on its banks. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe lives about 15 miles south of Jacksonville on the St. Johns. In building her house she had a large tree left standing near enough to her house that the veranda extends all around it. She left it perhaps to shelter Uncle Tom's Cabin from the scorching rays of the southern sun. She has a very

fine grove, not more so than many others, yet quite celebrated because of its illustrious owner, who is not admired by southern people. It will not be until the present generation with the feeling to a great degree which is unsettled into the rising generation have passed away, that the better feeling existing toward the North, will cease to exist. The treatment received from the north during the late dreadful war, has produced a feeling (which although measurably suppressed) of hatred as intense as when the war first closed. To return to the St. Johns river. The water looks very impure, being the color of weak coffee, caused from the great quantities of vegetation which fall into it and decay. Alligators abound in great numbers. They were a subject of great curiosity and interest to passengers on the boat, as well as disgusting turtles, very large are to

be seen in large quantities. Fish are innumerable, birds of every species in countless flocks. For miles there is little to disturb them except the passing of the boats. The country does not seem inhabited at all. Really the St. Johns is a succession of lakes, connected by narrow and very crooked streams, which in many places are nearly wide enough to permit the passage of the boats which frequently scrape the shore. A man may stand on one end of the boat and pluck grass or moss, another on the opposite end may do the same thing from the shore on the other side the river. This may seem rather incredible, it is not anything but simple truth. I was not impressed favorably with the healthfulness of Florida, until I got to Indian river, and I am free to say, I am simply charmed with this section. Being an arm of the sea, it is like being on the sea beach. This salt water is transparently clear, and has a beautiful bottom of white sand and shells, the country is high enough to make it both beautiful and healthy. The most deliciously flavored fish, fine size and very abundant are caught in this Lagnue. Nothing to do, but to go out in a row boat and throw in the cast net, and in a very short time catch a great quantity. Mullet is considered best, bass sheel head and various other kinds are very fine. Oyster bars are very numerous, and oysters are one of the chief articles of food in winter. Ducks often present the appearance of a succession of rafts, some times as far as the eye can reach they seem to

cover the water in an almost solid body. They are fine for food many varieties of them; quails are also abundant, wild turkeys and deer are shot not far from this place, with an occasional bear; squirrels also, are plentiful, so you see one need not want for meat and quite a variety, although not the same kinds they have in other sections of the country. Butter is brought here now in tubs, made north, and is very little if any higher in price than in Cincinnati. Milk they do not have, in many places, except condensed milk, which they try to persuade themselves takes the place of genuine milk, but I am not credulous on the subject, therefore dispense with it altogether. Tropical fruits attain to a high degree of perfection. Orange groves are the wealth of the state. Lemons, limes, bananos, citrons, pine apples and various other fruits are cultivated here in great quantities. A man who has a good grove, is a man of the most complete ease I ever saw. It requires very little work to keep up a grove and as they never fail it is a certain income as well as a very remunerative crop. Some years they yield more than others, but always enough to make it profitable. Vegetables grow finely in this portion of the state, but in many sections will not grow at all, others but poorly. Red peppers grow, year after year, one bush sometimes covering twenty yards, its branches continuing to spread until it becomes a hedge almost of itself, and 12 or 14 feet even higher. Some bushes yield four or five bushels ripe peppers at a single picking. It looks like the cayenne we raise, and is very strong. Butter beans bear also from year to year. How strange these things appear, even when I see them. But why not the same wise Providence which causes a thing in a certain latitude to produce for a short season, in another degree of latitude, cause it to yield its fruits indefinitely He can, and does. The climate added to other desirable features, is the most attractive feature. Certainly nothing can exceed the delightful and health giving atmosphere of Indian river. One never tires of inhaling its mild and strengthening breath as it were. Heretofore this section has been rather inaccessible consequently not so much known as many other portions. Now it is rapidly becoming settled up with a very desirable class of people, and is destined to become by far the wealthiest, as well

as the most attractive in every way of any part of the South. Nature has endowed it with superior claims. Where that is the case R. R's. will soon be built that will penetrate, and render it as easy of access as it has been difficult. A canal is being cut through from the Atlantic on the north to Indian river, the outlet on the south is to be dredged, which will open a direct communication from Jacksonville and all the northern portions by way of this river south. The largest vessels can come through then, giving all this country direct transportation for their fruits and vegetables with every foreign market in the world as well as home markets. A projected railroad from Palatka, it is firmly believed, will be built in two years. When these two things are done, this country will become very densely populated. Land has now reached enormous prices. It is impossible to conjecture what it will be in a few years. I am spending the winter with an old friend. She was an orphan girl my mother partly raised, lived in the family a number of years as one of us. She is now wealthy, has a lovely home, beautiful situation, house on a high piece of ground with gradual descent to the beach; commanding a beautiful view of the river for miles. She has a fine grove and a great many beautiful flowers, in full bloom. Her winter garden is just coming on. They are planting vegetables here all winter, their summer suns are too hot for vegetables to do well, like they do in winter, raise some kinds but this is really the season for gardening. Sugarcane grows well here, year after year for a quite a succession of years, finally it runs out, and has to be renewed. The finest syrups are made here of any portion of the South. I expect now to return to Kentucky in the spring, unless something unforeseen prevents. My greatest objection to this country is the absence of church privileges, which is a very serious drawback. In this as well as in schools, there is in the last few years a decided improvement, as there is a Methodist church, which has preaching twice per month close enough here to attend. Sunday-school every Sunday and very good schools within a few miles of each other; one above, another below us on this river. No one here has ever heard one of our brethren in this portion of Florida.

FANNIE MARTIN.