

The Ocala Evening Star.

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A TRIP TO PALMETTO.

Rev. J. C. Porter returned from a trip to Palmetto and the Manatee river country yesterday and has the following to say of that favored section:

We left Ocala November 29th by way of the Plant System for the Manatee River Association held at Palmetto. We spent Friday night at Port Tampa Inn and greatly enjoyed the elegant accommodation of this famous hostelry. Mr. Harry W. Foss, the superintendent, is a clever and accommodating gentleman. This hotel is built over the water a mile from land, and is a unique, delightful place to spend a few weeks in any season. It is open all the year. The fine fishing and bathing are among the attractions.

Saturday morning we boarded the comfortable little "Kissimmee" for Palmetto. This boat makes daily trips between Manatee and Port Tampa.

On reaching Palmetto we found the association in session with a good attendance of ministers and delegates. We greatly enjoyed meeting the brethren and listening to their earnest speeches. We were entertained at the delightful, and hospitable home of Bro. J. A. Lamb, who, with his cultured, charming wife made our stay a pleasure long to be remembered. Mr. Lamb is a large merchant and an extensive orange grower. Pastor Whitehead and his excellent people entertained the association with great heartiness and generous hospitality. We were glad to note the steady and solid growth of the Palmetto church under the able preaching of Bro. Whitehead.

Palmetto is on the Manatee river, surrounded by 14,000 acres of fertile, productive hammock lands. It has two churches and a fine school of more than a hundred pupils. The school building is a handsome one just finished at a cost of \$2,800. Prof. B. Arnold, the principal, is a college graduate and an experienced educator. He has two competent assistants.

Monday morning we took a drive with Dr. M. B. Harrison through the orange groves and vegetable farms, surrounding the town. Most of the groves in this section escaped the freezes of last winter, and have yielded a fair crop of fruit. The oranges were nearly all sold on the trees at \$2.50 per box. It is estimated that Manatee county will ship 30,000 boxes this season. The prettiest grove we saw was that of R. F. Willis. He has 1,500 bearing trees with not a dead limb on them. His crop this year amounted to 800 boxes.

We saw large fields of tomatoes, cabbage, egg plants, and squash. These vegetables are being shipped daily and bring good prices.

Dr. Harrison told us that he knew of more than twenty young men who came to that section several years ago without a dollar, and who are now worth from \$2,000 to \$5,000. They made it

all on growing vegetables and orange groves. First class hammock land brings from 75 to 100 dollars per acre in the woods, and the cost of cleaning and fencing is about \$25 per acre. With proper culture and a favorable season one can clear from 300 to 500 dollars an acre raising vegetables. We consider this one of the very best farming and fruit growing sections we have seen in Florida. If any of our readers wish further information in regard to this favored section we refer them to Dr. M. B. Harrison, deacon of the Baptist church and one of the most honest, reliable men we know.

ANOTHER FIRE

The cold weather brings a good many fires.

Another alarm was turned in last night at 8 o'clock from the first ward.

The department responded on the double quick.

The fire was found to be in the extreme northeastern house of the city, belonging to the Ocala Building and Loan association, and unoccupied.

It was a very nice cottage, and although the roof was burned off when the boys arrived, and only one line of hose could be laid, the fire was extinguished in a very few minutes, and probably two-thirds of the value of the house was saved.

Over a thousand feet of hose were laid, taking all of the hose from both reels, to get one stream on the fire.

The fire was clearly the work of an incendiary.

We have heard many high compliments passed on the fire department's prompt work last night, as with the headway the flames had obtained many said it seemed impossible to save a stick of the building. Chief Carlisle was in the thickest of the fight, going on top and into the burning house, where the fire was falling all around, to superintend the work.

Hurrah for our fire department! The best volunteer fire department in the United States!

THE FLAG FETE,

Mrs. Thomas Smillie is getting up one of the most beautiful and interesting entertainments that Ocala has ever produced. It will be given by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Presbyterian church, with some outside assistance, and will be called a "flag fete."

It will be a series of musical tableaux, with the characters dressed in the flags of the countries they represent, and is to take place during the holidays if the young people do not disappoint her in attending the practice meetings.

A very enthusiastic meeting was held in the armory last night, with over sixty present.

We will publish a list of the characters and their parts in a few days.

OUR DEPARTMENT.

We, on last night, had another opportunity of watching our fire department as they bravely fought the greatest of all earthly destroyers, the fiery fiend; and as we stood far enough from the building to be out of danger and looked upon the scene, the fire department within the burning walls, the building wrapped in flames from sill to top and fragments of the burning roof falling all around them as they worked faithfully to save the property, we were led to exclaim. "Certainly, if there is anything of which Ocala should be proud, it is her fire department!" There is not a department in the state, even though it may be a paid one, that works more faithfully at every fire than does ours.

LYNCH LAW

The murderous mob continues to crimson our soil with human blood. Last week, in Georgia, a learned white educator, sixty years old, suspected of bringing ruin to an assistant teacher, was brutally murdered without so much as having time to pray. In Mississippi a negro was ruthlessly murdered by a mob because he was suspected of killing a white man more than three years ago. Thus the harvest of crime goes on, while our pulpit and press are practically silent on the whole question.

Where this spirit of mob murder is to lead us, unless speedily checked, no human power can foresee. It is indescribably awful now and mob violence is increasing.—Ex.

AN IMPORTANT MOVE.

George MacKay, the leading architect and builder of the state, and the firm of McIver & MacKay, building materials, and also the undertaker, D. E. McIver, have rented the two large stores vacated some time ago by McCall & Sparr. D. E. McIver will move his stock of undertaker's goods from his present stand, and will put in a stock of harness, saddles, pants, oils, etc. George MacKay will occupy one side with his office. McIver & MacKay will keep their warehouse at the F. C. & P. depot.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Cleveland's annual message was submitted to congress yesterday. It is a lengthy document and treats only of the country's foreign affairs and finances. Like everything else which has emanated from the pen of Grover Cleveland it is noted for originality and sound logic. Whatever may be our private opinions in regard to Mr. Cleveland's official actions, we are all forced to admit that as a statesman he has few equals and no superiors in this country. The message will be meat for the thoughtful and bones for the ignorant and factions.

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FALL MILLINERY!

Having just received a full line of the latest styles of fall millinery, we are now ready to please the ladies. All we ask is for you to call and see us.

Thanking you for past favors, I am
Kindly yours,

Mrs. C. A. Brown.