

## CHAPTER VI

## DEVELOPMENT OF JACKSONVILLE

For several years after the survey of Jacksonville in 1822, I. D. Hart must have experienced severe disappointment, for his dream of a boom town at the Cow Ford did not materialize rapidly. Brady and Hogans, who scouted the idea in the beginning, no doubt expressed themselves upon occasion, "I told you so". Brady shortly afterward sold out and moved away, but L. Z. Hogans remained to perpetuate the expression.

Up to 1828-30, the development of the place was confined to the building of about one house a year within the town limits. A dismal picture was drawn of it by a writer in the East Florida Herald of St. Augustine, December 20, 1825; he said:

When this town (Jacksonville) was laid out on the St. Johns river, great expectations were formed of its rapid increase, commodious houses were soon to be built, commerce and useful mechanic arts were to flourish, and the soil improved by cultivation and industry. But alas! none of these fond expectations have been realized. There are not more than eight or ten houses erected of any description, most of which are rudely formed of logs, and affording only a feeble protection against the cold, the wind, and the rain. There is not a sash window in the whole town; but few of the houses have even a chimney.

There appears to be very little trade of any kind carried on in the place. There is, indeed, one store of goods, but whether well or ill supplied, the writer of this article is unable to state, for although he was several days in the place, during the late term of the Superior court held there, and was desirous of purchasing many necessary articles of merchandise, usually kept in country stores, he never found this store open or any person ready to attend upon purchasers. He therefore presumed it was only a warehouse for the deposit and transportation of goods into the country and not for their sale at the place. It was, perhaps, a wholesale and not a retail store. As to mechanics, there does not appear to be a single working individual in the whole place.

The building appropriated for the use of the court would scarcely be considered fit for a barn. It is open to the wind and rain at almost every point of the compass. There is, indeed, the frame of a pretty large courthouse erected, which has the appearance of having been in that state for some time. Nothing has since been done to it.

Yet nothing can be more beautiful than the natural situation of