

still going on, had cleaned out her treasury. Jacksonville had experienced the inflation and she was feeling the result. The ambitious enterprises that had been planned were abandoned.

There was, though, another side to it for Jacksonville. Besides the army officers and troops that came to the State, the war drew many people here, desirable citizens and adventurers alike, for there is something about a new country like Florida was at that time, that lures people. The adventurers did not settle and left when peace was at last restored, while a number of good people stayed and made this their permanent home. The effects of the panic gradually wore away and the zone of hostilities receded until the town returned to almost normal business conditions, despite the fact that roving bands of Indians still made an occasional attack upon some outlying settlement. Trade with nearby points was resumed and gradually extended to the interior.

Some light is thrown upon the conditions in this section in letters from Mandarin about this period; the following are excerpts:^f

Mandarin, March 13, 1839.

* * * But I must broach the all absorbing, all exciting theme—the mulberry. I thought when at New York I had made a good contract, but it has proved far otherwise, for I found much to my surprise that the fever was raging higher here than at Hartford or New York, for not only had some of the mulberry planters returned from travelling at the North, but several Northern men had come here to buy mulberry and plant here to avail themselves of our climate; so instead of finding plenty of opportunities for buying cheap, as I had every reason to expect, I found only buyers riding through the country in search of it. This was a double disappointment, for in the first place I had formed a plan * * * to purchase up all the mulberry in my neighborhood as soon as I arrived and with my own take it to New York and make quite a speculation with it * * *. I have barely time to say that I have sold what I could spare and reserved enough to make a great number this season, but such was my fear that something might occur to reduce the price * * * that I sold them too soon and did not get more than half as much as I might soon after, for such is the rage for planting that they have risen to the enormous price of 3 cents an eye for cuttings. The Davenportes have shipped a great quantity. One lot of trees at St. Augustine sold for \$50,000.

Mandarin, July 10, 1840.

* * * The unaccountable or rather abominable circumstances of the war, keeping me out of the possession of my place and the total failure of the mulberry market, deprives me of all resources for the present.