

# DUVAL COUNTY.

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**A**REA 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres. Duval County lies on both sides of the St. Johns River. About twenty-five miles from its mouth is the main entrepot of the State, and principal city, Jacksonville, also the county seat, which enjoys all the privileges afforded the metropolitan cities of the country. It is the seat of the United States District Court, is the principal distributing office for the mail of the State, has all the principal offices of the various Federal Departments of Government, has daily mails from all parts of the world and the State, and is the terminus of the railroads from the north and west, and lines of steamers from the north and the upper St. Johns and Ocklawaha rivers.

For over thirty-five miles her eastern shore is washed by the waters of the Atlantic, affording opportunities for summer residences.

The bar at the mouth of the St. Johns is being removed by the general Government, by a system of jetties.

The county is dotted all over with churches and chapels of all orthodox denominations, affording unexcelled religious opportunities.

There are in successful operation county schools, conducted from five to eight months in the year, having in Jacksonville an excellent grammar and high school in which pupils may be finished for any ordinary business of life, all open to the public.

Her crops of long-staple cotton, sugar-cane, rice, and market truck cannot be excelled. Scarcely a square acre of land within her limits, except the very high black-jack ridges, will not produce from twenty-five to forty bushels of rough rice, which can be readily sold at 90 cents to \$1.30 per bushel, according to quality. Her sugar and syrup find a ready market in Jacksonville and the cities of the neighboring States at very remunerative prices.

Her fruits consist of oranges, bananas, peach, pear, and other small fruits, and while an occasional heavy frost or freeze retards the growth of the orange tree, there is rarely ever a tree killed down, while the oranges grown in Duval County are more hardy than those grown in the counties farther south, and are universally pronounced by the shippers here and elsewhere to be more easily handled and preserved, and will resist decay much longer than others, and are decidedly spicy and of delicious flavor.

The lands in Duval County are peculiarly adapted to market gardening and strawberry growing, both of which are sources of quick and remunerative profits to the diligent grower.

The very large and fine hotels in the City of Jacksonville, accommodating thousands of persons, besides an almost innumerable number of private boarding-houses, at once form a daily market for these crops, both of which reach their maturity and perfection in the latter part of January, and in February and March. Besides this, being at the very wharves and warehouses of northern-bound steamers and railroads, places the products of our farms within two or three days of the great cities of the North, East, and West, affording the farmer facilities not exceeded by any portion of the South. Our vegetables are earlier than those of Georgia or South Carolina, and therefore give us the cream of these markets.