
A.B. Temple Letter

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Letter from A.B. Temple to A.R. Hunter, Jacksonville, Fla., 1869-01-25

A. B. Temple

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Jacksonville Jan'y 25th / 69

C. R. Hunter Esq
Dear Sir

According

to agreement I take this opportunity
to write you a few lines to let
you know what I think of Florida
in the first place I have not got
the fever quite as hot as I had
when I started and I think a
few weeks it will die out all
together. that is, as far as busi-
ness is concerned for there is
not much here anyway if it
was not for the Northern folks
that come here and have
settled here there would not
be much I reckon this is the
largest place in the State there
are about 6000 inhabitants here

had a very heavy frost here
about Christmas and it hurt
all the oranges in Florida so
they say, and I have not seen
one but what has been touched
This man has 150 acres of land
and asked \$30,000 for it
last year he got about 200,000
oranges of the green. Tomatoes
grow here very fine if you
manure the ground well but
they will not keep to be shipped
to New York unless they could
go direct and then it would
be pretty hard to get them there
sound. Sweet Potatoes grows
pretty well but they rot very
bad this year. The land is very
sandy, and most of it is very
low and wet. That is all along
the river. I was through an
Orange grove last week about
130 miles from Jacksonville I should
think there was 20,000 trees all
lower Oranges they have to be
cuddled and it takes about 4 years
for them to bear the man paid \$10
per acre for it

and there is not as much enterprise here as there is in one of our little country towns of a thousand inhabitants. they ask almost all prices for land if they think a man wants to buy. I was up the river last week about 130 miles and had a very good chance to see some of it I have been up there 9 days hunting and fishing we had a very good time only it rained a good deal and we did not get much game. I do not think there is as much game as they say there is we see Deer and Bear tracks and that was about all unless it was alligators there are plenty of them they cover the banks of the river and we could shoot them from our vessel they are from 5 to 25 feet long and they look like

a big log on the shore but they can be very easily killed with buck shot. they have a very musky smell and it is not a very pleasant job to skin them. we went into an Orange grove across the river from Palatka that is about 75 miles from Jacksonville it is owned by a man by the name of Davis I think he is from Vermont has been here about 3 years he has about 1500 trees and they was all most full of oranges it was a fine site I am sure you we had all we could eat and we bought 2 or 3 Hundred of them he sold the windfalls for one dollar per Hundred and then that he picked of the trees 2,50 per Hundred but they have all been touched by the frost they

but he says nobody could
live on it for they have
fears and are so. he is at work
clearing it up it is about 2
miles from the creek. there
was plenty of oranges but they
as sour as apples.

The climate
is very fine the thermometer
has been from 60 to 80 since
I have been here. that is the
only thing that makes it
pleasant here. I can hardly
believe it is July it is so
mild no need of a coat. but
I must close give my kind
regards to Mrs Hunter and
Em George Will Jim and
all the rest of the folks and
please answer as soon as convenient
and I will remain respectfully yours
A B Temple

Direct to A. B. Temple
St James Hotel
Jacksonville
Florida





A. R. Hunter Esq
West Albany
N.Y.