Dec 30.

I have planted cane all day; the cane ground is so hard and soddy that I have difficulty in securing enough soft dirt to cov the cane seed with. Mother and I went over to s Earnest Kinney after supper. He looks bad

Dec 31.

I have planted cane all day and am now done. I have been writing ever since supper and will soon go to bed.

Jan 1 1899

Just one year ago today I began to keep th diary; but I have been careless and have allowed the events of several months to go unrecorded. I wish I had all the events o my like trip of the state herein written fo they would be interesting. I am going to try to do better in the coming year of 189.

Mother and I went to Denand and spen the day with Baldwins. We had a most excellent dinner, which was prepared by Alice and of which I partook so freely that for some hours afterward I had a smothere

feeling under my vest. We had strawberries which is something unusual at New Years day. Mr. Baldwin has a fine strawberry bed, with lots of berries on the plants. His place is improving rapidly under his constant attention and labor. Alice had on a long dress, the first I have seen her wear. She looks very womanly now. The evening was cool, for a strong N. E. wind has been blowing nearly all day.

Jan. 2.

I banked trees all day. The day has been windy.

Jan 3

I hoed strawberries, dug sweet potatoes and got ready to go back to Marco.

Jan. 4.

I started for Marco today, and sailed all the way, but five miles to Myers. I stopped in Myers for an hour on business. I couldn't sell my potatoes so I took them on to Punta Rassa where I sold them to a schooner. I reached Punta Rassa at dark having traveled 40 miles

today. I

While coming down the river I met a large sloop beating up. Her crew had whiskey aboard and were all drunk. They came near me and luffing their boat called to me "Come aboard Gardner! Come aboard!" They wanted me to have a drink with them, but I had no time, and said so. They "cussed" me a little and then went flowing on their way up the river, tumbling about on the deck, kicking up their heels, and yelling in drunken merriment.

Jan. 5

I had a bad night of it for a half dozen drunken sailors made the night hideous with their yelling and cursing. I arose early and started down the coast with a fair wind. The wind shifted when I was about a mile from Carlos Pass and I had to row and tow the boat into the pass. I had a nasty time getting there. I found some of the Norwegian's had built there and two of them were still living ther

I took dinner with a Mr. Mayo, a privelaged character among the Koreshians. He tried to inplant some Koreshian doctrines in my mind but his seed fell in stony ground and has not yet sprouted, nor never will. Mr. Mayo seems to be a good sort of a fellow, but one of that class of people who are easily humbugged by any slick tongued rascals. This afternoon I went down inside Hickory Island to Big Hickory Pass, six miles from ~~Naco~~ Carlos, and there I will spend the night with a fisherman named Brump. One of the Koresians, Karl, and his little son, came down here this evening and I have written a letter to mother which I will send to to the Koresian P. O. by Karl. Brump has a pet cat, and is keeping the fish camp until his comrads come back from Cuba where they went to sell a schooner load of mullet. The schooner was the Three Brothers, and has not been heard from since she left Cuba and they fear she is lost.

Jan. 6.

I arose before daylight, bade Mr. Brun good bye, and sailed down to Huggins Pa six miles on down the coast. I reached t pass a little while before the wind slip to the S.W. and went in. I found the family of Baxters there who used to live Demand, and I learned from them wh a Mr. More lived. I wanted to get Mr More to take me to Little Marco, and so walked four miles to his house through rosemary scrub to see him. I found that Mr. More had a very nice grove Surveyors Creek and he had 175 lo oranges this season. He couldn't take me to Marco, so I went back to Baxter's an waited there until nearly sundown. At sundown I sailed down to the mouth the Pass and waited there until an hou after dark. I made a fire, heated som water and ate supper, then walked on the beach for awhile, after which I rolled up my sail and waited until time to start.

About an hour after dark, I rowed out of the Pass, and started for Little Marco. The wind had fallen, and the waves had run down, so rowing was easy. I stopped for a few minutes at Naples dock and examined the weather. The sky was clear so I went on and about three o'clock on the morning of Jan. 7 I reached Little Marco Pass. I nearly got lost in Little Marco, on account of a dense fog, and I was forced to jump overboard on the bar and pull my boat over. I had to pull my boat through ~~the~~ Anger Hole and about daylight I reached Kirkland's. I was terribly tired and went to bed at once.

Jan. 7

Part of today's happenings have been recorded with those of yesterday. I went to bed as soon as I got there this morning, but I slept only an hour and then got up for breakfast. I slept some today, but not much yet I do not feel so very bad after my night row.

Jan. 8.

I felt better today, after a good slep last night. I wrote a letter to mother and one to Helen. Helen's letter had 21 pages. I read some and washed out my wet paste.

Jan. 9.

School began again today, and went on just as it used to do. We have a new blackboard and a little vest pocket heating stove in the school. Some new pans have been put along the north side and over the holes; so altogether our school house looks quite well. Mrs. H. Hall made one of Jillie's dresses for me today; she is a neat worker and the dress looks very pretty. I read some tonight to my "Heathens" in Gulliver's Travels.

Jan. 10.

After school today I rowed to Marco and got my mail. I saw Miss Vick. She gave me a grapefruit. I arrived at

home about an hour after dark and ate a hearty suffer of turkey and venison. The boys came in this evening with 4 deer and while I was away he killed two others. I received a note from Helen a letter from Sam. I bought some candy and crackers.

Jan. 11

The boys went to Marco today and brought back my box from M. & W. & Co. and I have spent all evening in unpacking and checking off the articles. Every thing came but my shoes, a hat of Mr. Weaver's and some books. I think there was $3.00 freight on the two boxes.

School proceeded well today. We had to row down and row back this evening.

Jan. 12.

The wind was fair this ~~evening~~ morn and we sailed down with our flag up. I took Mrs. Hall's goods to her and she seemed well pleased with them. School was as usual today. I took Fellie's dresses and her book up to her tonight and had her

put on the red dress. The dresses are so pretty and Lillie looks so well in them. She liked her book and I took her on my lap and read to her for a half hour or more. She seems to be very shy of me and said but little so I couldn't tell whether she much pleased or not. Her eyes sparkled so I think she was. The boys went out and brought in two deer and a turkey. Mr. Kirk and Hannah came in just at dark. Mr. Bill Kirk got his goods this evening and paid freight.

Jan. 13

We sailed to school this morning and rowed half way back this evening. I received a letter from mother and Miss Andrew this evening. School goes very well today, but I had to punish Kirk for laziness this morning. I found a peculiar kind of air-plant in the woods today but do not know the name of it.

Jan. 14.

I went hunting today with Mr. Kirk and the two eldest boys. We went to hunt otters, but we found none, for the creatures all seemed to have run out of the country. We found three squirrels and the dogs routed out some coons which we did not shoot. The dogs also routed out two deer which got away. We walked about fifteen miles and part of the way was through the thickest jungles I have ever been in, and part of the way was through muddy salt-water marshes and flats. I saw some big moccasins and some small gators. I received a shock this morning when I fired the .22 caliber rifle, for the shell bursted and some powder spatted me in the eye.

When I came in this evening I found fourteen big volumes of United States Records of Education which Mr. Pasco sent me.

Jan. 15

This morning I went to Sunday School and organized it. We will try to make the S.S. go. The people did not "turn out" very well, but I think there will be more next Sunday. Reese went up to spear fish with my speare when I went to S.S. and we had fish for dinner and supper. I read some, and wrote three letters.

Jan. 16.

Mr. Kirk and the two eldest boys went out on a coon hunt this morning. School proceeded better than usual today. Mr & Mrs Hart visited us this morning. Lillie came today and had on her new red checked dress. We sailed home this evening with an aft wind.

Jan. 17.

I Rowed down this morning and the morning was very warm. I suspected a storm before very long. School

progressed well, only some of the pupils were a little lazy. Belande and Ruby were touchy, and consequentially very mean and disagreeable. Coming home this evening a north-wester came up and we had to jerk our sail out and let it go overboard. Walter Barrd took out his sprite and let his sail flap, but didn't take it down. He nearly capsized and at last the mast broke and he had to drift into the bushes and take to his oars. One squall went across the bay, making a white cloud of spray in the air. If that had struck us or Walter, the result would have been a capsized boat. I took some food up to Mr. Demeritte's dog this evening, and the old dog seemed glad to see me.

Jan 18.

The morning was very rainy and only the George went. School progressed in good order. We had a row home this evening for no wind was blowing.

I went out in the boat to spear some fish by torch light. The two boys went with me, one to hold the light and the other to pole the boat. I speared only one mullet. Mr. Kirk and the two eldest boys came in from their hunt tonight. They had three deer and five turkeys. I have been sick all day. The bad water and the grease has upset my stomach.

Jan. 19

The weather is cold for a north wester has been blowing all day. We had a fire in our new stove at the school house today, but it did very little good for the wind came through the door and blew all the heat out of the window. We sailed most of the way up this evening to the island, and then the mast fell on my head and we had to row the rest of the way. We had squirrels for supper this evening, and I ate my share.

Jan 20

The weather has been cool today and we have had a fire. The pupils have behaved themselves quite well considering that they could all sit around the stove together.

Jan 21

Saturday today, and I went to the beach and tried to spear some ow-fish, but the water was too cold and the weather too cloudy so I saw none. I spent three or four hours on the beach and gathered some shells and "sand-dollars" but the wind was too strong and ~~cloudy~~ cool for pleasure. The wind was fair and I sailed entirely home this evening. I did some washing this morning and I boiled the clothes in Mrs. K's big pot in the yard.

Jan 22

I went to S.S. this morning and on the way my writing tablet and two letters fell out of my pocket and were lost in the creek.

Velma wanted me to "shave off the mustache on my chin."
S.S. was a fairly good one but no more people were present than were out last Sunday. After Sunday School I came home and found all the family gone, and nothing left for me to eat except some scraps left from breakfast. I wrote two letters and made out another report, and then went to Mr. Harts where I remained until eight o'clock. I rowed home by moonlight.

Jan. 23.

We sailed down this morning, but rowed back this evening in the rain. School went along very well, only one or two of the little girls seemed to be very full of the giggles. I hasn't felt very well today.

Jan. 24

It rained all last night and it has been raining nearly all of today. We had to sail down in the rain and sail back in the rain. We had a quartering head wind this morning and a quartering aft wind this evening and

they were both as much as we could stand. We shifted several gallons of water this morning and had to beat some. School was a little disorderly for some reason this afternoon. Mr. Kirk and the boys have not yet come in and grub is getting scarce. There was nothing for supper except sweet-"taters", coffee, heavy biscuits, rice and some grease.

Jan. 25.

School has gone along very well today for I have had a good deal of him and have taught with some energy. Lillie came up to the School house this afternoon and brought my mail to me. There came two letters, one from mother and one from Helen, and each one bore the tidings of Uncle A.'s death. Poor Genivieve and Aunt Cora. I must write to them tonight.

I tackled Mr. Kirk about my board and I think he will try to get some more food for me. He nearly got mad, but I was cool and so he kept down.

Mr. Kirk, and the three fellows came in this evening with two deer and three turkeys, besides two coon skins—the result of a five days hunt.

Jan. 26.

The weather has been cold cloudy and disagreeable today, and it has rained considerable. Mr. and Mrs. Kirk went to Marco and they got something to eat too this time. They took the old boat to have it repaired, but had to bring it back and get Hannan H. to fix it for them. I had to punish Ruby today for laziness. She is the laziest child I have seen. Mr. Kirk received a letter today which he got me to read for him. It was from a Mrs. Sarah Rouch in Middletown, Del. asking Mr. Kirk to write her some of the details of her husbands death, for she wants to get an increase in her pension

Jan. 27

It has rained nearly all day, and has been a raw cold day. We have had a fire all day which made it quite cosy. School went very well today. I went up to Mr. Demeritt's with Mr. & Mrs. K. I broke one of Mr. Kirke's oars this evening. I must be strong.

Jan. 28.

Rain fell all night and until nine o'clock this morning then the weather cleared and a strong N.W. wind sprang up. I took a sail this afternoon, but the wind was so gusty and strong that I didn't go far. I nearly capsized several times and shipped considerable water. Mr. Kirk and the boys went on a hunt to the Big Swamp this morning. I have worked some in algebra this evening. I am now working in Radical Equations, having just finished Rationalization and Properties of Quadratic Surds.

Jan. 29.

I went to S.S. this morning. There were more people out than any time yet, and we had

a good S.S. I have felt well today and have felt very well for the last week. I have studied this afternoon. We had oysters for supper of which I ate a quart. The boys just came in with three deer.

Jan. 30

School has proceeded in a very encouraging manner. The boys and Mrs. Kirk went to Marco today, and brought me some mail; one letter from Alice and one from my mother. Billie came to school today. Claude and Cora are having a tough time with their arithmetic.

Jan. 31

All the pupils were present today except Arthur. School has proceeded in a good manner today. George is just having a fuss with the family on account of slate pencils, which he eats, as if they were candy. He has eaten a dozen or more since school began, and shows the affects of such nice (?) food. Why these people have such

distorted a little I do not know, unless it is because they eat so much grease and greasy meat. Fillie came home with us this evening. I think she will ~~soon~~ go with us in the mornings after this

Feb. 1.

It does not seem a month ago since New Year's day, and yet it seems to have been six months ago. Time goes so fast and yet it drags. It drags owing to the kind of people I have to live with

This morning Mr Demeritt brought Fillie down to our landing and we took her to school. School went along well today. I had a little trouble with Arthur this morning, but he had to mind me.

Feb. 2.

This has been a very warm day and the children have been restless I could not keep them still, nor very

attentive to their lessons, but nevertheless they had very good lessons. Ruby and Velora and Lillie had to stand in the corner for whispering. I tried to spear some mullet this evening after supper, but did not get any.

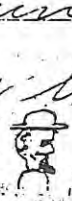
Feb. 3

Today was Arbor Day and we had no school, but the boy pupils and I did work enough to make up. We grubbed all around the school house and planted fifteen trees; five mangos six guavas, one tamarind, two lemons and one Sapodilla. The girls helped us a little by throwing the roots out of the way, but they had too much play to do much work. I read two stories this evening before dismissing which were our only literary exercises. I sailed up this evening with a lively wind. Mr. Kirk and the boys came in with four deer and seven squirrels this evening. The law is now out and

they call deer "goats" now, and turkeys "limpkins"

Feb. 4.

This is Saturday and I have stayed at home and rested. This morning I did my washing and then read the news papers. I learned of the death of Senator Chas. Dingly of Maine. He died twenty days ago but I learned of it only today.

This morning the two boys went hunting and killed one squirrel. Mrs. and Mr. Kirkland went to Marco but they brought me no snail. The boys shot a wild-duck and George and I waded the creek to get it, but it dived and escaped. I wrestled and scuffled a little with the boys this afternoon, and they thought they were doing a great deal when I let them throw me twice. I could handle six like them in a genuine scrape. I wrote to Miss Andrew a long letter. I drew her my picture thus 

Feb. 5.

Sunday today and I went to S.S. this morning. George and Noah went too. There were more people in than usual. We sailed back and also most of the way down. This afternoon I read the newspapers and letters I received this morning. Jean Johnson came up and the kids and I all joined in some athletic exercises. We ran two races, I beat each time. Tonight I have just finished writing a long letter to Helen. I received a long and interesting letter from her, also one from Anna and one from my mother. Kirk Sr. went to Marco to bring up some "Yankees" whom he is going to pilot in the woods tomorrow.

Feb. 6.

School has proceeded very well today. The pupils were very much more studious than they are at the

last of the week. Mrs Hall and old Mrs. Hart visited the school this afternoon. My clock got the "griffe this day at noon, and will not now run a bit. I'll return it, you bet! Mr. Kirk brought up his "Yankees" and took them out to the Big Swamp. I stopped at Hannah's and put in a few buds for him this evening. He has a grove of three trees. Miss Vick sent up a Cosmopolitan and Little Women.

Feb 7

We had a head wind this morning and got there late. We tacked down the bay. This evening we had a fine wind and broke the boom. Little Nellie Hall is now a member of my school. They have taken her from Miss Vick's school and sent her to mine. The day has been very windy and the palmetto fans have made so much noise that it was hard to hear any thing.

The first reader I ordered for Lillie came today, also the report card, and a letter from Aunt Maggie.

Feb. 8

Last night a north-wester came up and the wind was blowing a gale when we arose this morning. A drizzling rain fell for an hour or more but about seven o'clock it cleared and the wind increased. George and I risked going to school but the others stayed at home. We went with full sail to the island, but the wind became so fierce that we couldn't manage the boat, and we had to take down the sprit. George's hat went overboard and sunk before we could tack back to it. When we got out into the bay the waves were running high, and the wind was furious. Soon the boat began to take in water on one side, and the waves flew in great clouds of

spray over the other side. I had to bail all the way down, for George was handling the boat. The boat plunged and pounded at a great rate and we were both wet to the skin. None of the other pupils came this morning so George and I stayed an hour and cleared out the "girls road" then went back home. We had a bad time getting out from the landing, and were driven ashore twice. When we did get out we were nearly swamped several times. Once the boat was half full, but when I bailed it out and took the helm it went better, for then we both could sit on the high side. We fairly flew back home, but were very wet from the flying waves. Noah and I hunted ducks this afternoon and sailed up and down the creek four times. It is cold tonight and we are all in the kitchen around the stove. Food is scarce

Feb. 9

The weather was almost freezing this morning and I put on some warm clothes. George, Arthur and I went to school. We have had fire all day. The tracks of a very large panther were in the road from Mrs Hall's to the school house. I am afraid it will catch some of my little pupils. I raved up this evening against a head wind. The "yankees" and Mr. Kirk came in this evening. Each of the young fellows killed a deer and Mr. Kirk killed two deer and several squirrels. The "yanks" went to Marco this evening but I fear they will get lost or stuck in the creek. The weather is cold tonight. I nearly froze last night.

Feb. 10

The weather was much warmer tonight and this morning. We went in the new old-boat to school. She leaks very much, but sows finely.

School has progressed tolerably well today. I have contracted a slight cold some how. This evening I put a patch in my coat sleeve elbow but it looks somewhat puckery. I received some mail today. A Mr. Geo. Christian of Everglade sent me thirteen Christian Heralds to distribute among the people. He writes like a "dutchman".

Feb. 11.

I have had a sore throat today the first since I came from Ohio. School has been rather stupid, for all the pupils have had bad colds. I shot at the ducks this evening but the gun does not shoot well and I killed none. I wrote to Mother this evening.

Feb. 12

My cold is bad today and I feel bad tonight. I couldn't sing a bit in S.S. today. The singing was very poor because so many had colds.

Feb. 13.

A northwester came up last night and the wind has been blowing furiously all day. I did not go to school today for I fear the children would not go either. The two boys Walter Carroll and I raced down to the "back landing" and back. Walter and Noah beat down, but Reese and I beat them back by a quarter of a mile. The bay was rough and the waves broke over the boats side in sheets; we were all wet in a little while. We dipped several times; and one man in each boat was kept busy bailing all the time.

The weather is cold tonight and I am almost sure it will freeze before morning. We have all hugged the stove today, and have also shivered. My cold is better. The boys killed two ducks this morning, and we had them baked for supper. I say baked, but they were burnt almost to a cinder, as all their birds are.

Reese and Noah went to the beach this morning and George and I went there after S.S. I found a few shells, sponges and "sand-dollars" and secured two saw-fish saws and two porcupine fish. The boys fished and caught some fish, and I gigged a saw-fish—bad Sunday business. A squall came up this evening as we were coming home and it is now raining. I received some mail from home and a bunch of 12 valentines from Aunt Mag for my pupils. This morning Noah and Reese told how Mr. Kirk had founed on Noah one day last year. They fell to the floor, the old man trying to pound Noah's head against the floor. Noah hugged tight to Mr. Kirk, and Mrs. Hall, the daughter, thinking that Noah needed help, pitched in and hit the old man several blows. The old man didn't know it was his daughter who struck him but thought it was the boy and doesn't know any better yet. A great family this!

Feb. 14

Valentines day and a cold and disagreeable day it has been. There was ice this morning here and I fear all our grafts and buds are dead for it must have been 4° colder at home than here. My cold has been better today but this evening it grew worse. The boil on my temple is painful and I have fever blisters on my lips. School has not been very interesting, for we all had colds and each had to toot his own trumpet. The boys gigged 26 red snappers and other fish this morning; among the fish was a saw fish, with a 13 inch saw. I purchased the saw from Reese ~~we~~ for 10¢. I gave each of my pupils two valentines today, and I found that none of them knew what Valentin's Day was. They had never heard of it before. We "beat" home this evening.

Feb. 15

Last night was a bad one for me for I dreamed and kicked all the time. My "fet" on the temple is worse and I have felt miserable all day. I could hardly teach, but I stuck it out. I sailed the boat home this evening but was sick. I have spent the evening in making out a M & W order. This order will amount to nearly $50.00

Feb. 16

My "fet" is better and I am better. The morning was cloudy but the day has been beautiful. Only seven pupils were present. Their colds are better. I will finish the order tonight. Mr. Kirk and the boys came in this evening with 5 deer and will go to Marco in the morning.

Feb. 17.

School went very well this morning but this afternoon the pupils grew very restless and were full of fun

I sent away my order this morning. There was no mail for me at Marco.

Feb 18.

This is Saturday. I wrote a letter this morning to mother. This afternoon I went up the creek to hunt for fish. I grained only some gars but I went away up the creek. It is a pretty place for the mangroves are so thick and tall along each side, that they form a continuous wall interlocking at the top. There are many kinds of air plants in full blow up there and some plants that are new to me. I have not seen any today.

Feb 19.

Sabbath has not seemed like Sabbath for the boys have been shooting and whooping until it seemed like the 4th of July.

Gene Johnson and Reese traded guns and they have been trying the guns. We all went to S.S. this morning. "Bud", George and I went in the little boat with a ten yard sail. The little thing nearly turned over with us before we reached the landing. There was a good "turn out" today. I received letters from mother, Mrs. Baldwin, Alice being on Surveyor's Creek, and from Howard Adams, also a bundle of papers and freight rates from M. & M. & Co. Tonight I went up to old Mr. Hall's and read to him and his wife from the bible. They seemed so glad to hear the holy word read.

Feb. 20

School again today. I had a slight fever today and fear I will have more tomorrow. I hear that there is dysentery in the neighborhood. I fear it will get into my school.

and if it does I will have a vacation (?). When we came home this evening, Georgi and I came shot a marsh-hen. George hen was struck in the middle by the bullet and was all gone except a leg, the head and some strings of skin. My hen was some better for I only shot away its neck.

Feb. 21

The weather has been fine for the day. School has gone very well today. We sailed home this evening with a fair wind. The boys had a quarrel, caused by Arthur as usual I have not felt well today

Feb. 22.

The weather was cloudy this morning and I expected bad weather but it has cleared, and is now very nice weather. I felt quite sick this evening when I reached home but after supper I felt better, and went down and sculled

about in the little canoe. Mrs Kirk has a very severe cold. Food is getting scarce, you bet! I am getting tired of this school on account of my boarding place, I will be glad when I get away from here.

Feb. 23.

School has gone very well, but Blanche and Pearl have felt very quarrelsome and have kept up a continual disturbance. I would like to give them a good switching. Velma has been sick today. I fear she has that disease. I sailed the old boat up the bay with a north wind which was very good for a boat without a centerboard. Mr. Kirk and the boys came in with two deer and a turkey.

Feb. 24.

The weather was somewhat cool and we had quite a strong wind. We fairly flew to school, and reached

there an hour before time. School proceeded quite well. I had seven pupils today but yesterday I had only six, the smallest number yet. Mr. Kirk brought me quite a pile of mail today. I received letters from Miss Andrew, Helen, Mrs. Baldwin, Alice and my mother. Alice is in a worse place than I am, and I pity her. I had a hard row home this evening.

Feb. 25

Saturday, and I did not teach as I had intended. I washed several pieces this morning and then read until noon. This afternoon I went in the little ~~little~~ boat up to the head of the creek. It is a pretty creek and is a very picturesque place. I found a pretty open hammock near the head of the creek, where I sat under the trees and studied my Sunday School lesson for an hour or more.

Mr. Kirk grew angry at the little pups this evening and kicked one of the poor creatures half crazy. He is a brute. I found five different kinds of air-plants on one tree today and I found ten different species up the creek. The boys went to Marco today and I sent a letter to mother and had them bring me a lamp chimney.

Feb. 26

Today has been very windy and we had a lively sail to and from S.S. this morning. Sunday School was rather small for all the Harts were sick except Claude and the Johnsons did not come. I received a packag of papers from Mr. Christian for distribution in my S.S. The boys went boat racing fish graining, and are now out on a gator hunt up the creek. They have no regard for the third commandment. I have been reading all afternoon and feel rested enough to begin school tomorrow.