

CHAPTER II.

EARLY HISTORY.

Office-holding Exceptional.—Stephen Ravenel Secretary of State—Probably Daniel James Also.—Daniel Ravenel and James Ravenel Members Provincial Congress.—René Ravenel, Emigrant, Prominent Citizen, Elder in Church.—“Wantoot” Plantation.—Revolutionary History.—Marion’s Men.—Captain Henry Ravenel, Daniel Ravenel, of “Wantoot,” First and Second.—Horses, Canal, China Set.—Success in Planting.—Racing in Carolina.—Irving’s Turf.—Ability of St. Johns Planters in Last Century.—Ruin after Revolution.—Wm. A. Courtenay’s Article on Daniel Ravenel (1834-1894).—Huguenot Colony in 1629.—Old Newspaper Notices.—Wills.—Daniel of Chelsea.—Pierre de St. Julien.—Catherine Le Noble.—Burial Grounds at Pooshee, Somerton, Hanover—Site of Old St. Julien House at Somerton.—Ravenel, S. P., Home at Highlands.—Old China.

“Thy father’s merit sets thee up to view,
And shows thee in the fairest point of light,
To make thy virtues, or thy faults, conspicuous.”

Addison, Cato. Act 1, Scene 2.

FOR more than two hundred years, on this side of the water, the Ravenels have been prominent men in the communities of their adoption, and yet we know of only two of the name who have held offices of profit. These were Mr. Stephen Ravenel, who was Secretary of State early in the present century, probably about 1820, and his brother, Daniel James Ravenel, who, it is thought, afterwards filled the same office for several years. They were sons of Henry Ravenel, of Hanover. The earlier members of the family did not entirely eschew politics, but the last two generations may be said to have done so absolutely. The first Daniel Ravenel, of Wantoot (born 1732), and James Ravenel, his cousin, son of René Louis, were members of the Pro-