

CHAPTER V.

St. Johns—Life before the Civil War.—Hospitality.—Prosperity.—Ravenel Plantations.—Dr. Henry Ravenel of Pooshee.—Mexico Plantation.—Horse-back Riding.—Springs.—Architecture.—Hanover.—Chelsea.—Country Ruined by War.—Some Hopeful Signs.—Moncke Corner the County Seat.—Contrast of Values now and Prior to War.—Copy of Old Paper by Dr. Henry Ravenel, Giving History of Various Plantations.—Peter St. Julien in 1713 (Logan).—"Indian Field."—Oaks there.—The Porcher Bible.—Isaac Porcher, Emigrant.—Original Note of His Wife's Death.—Philip Porcher of "Old Field" Plantation.—Longevity; Instances of.—Ravenel, Kirk, Gaillard, Prioleau, Snowden, Stoney, Porcher, Thomas and Samuel—Mazyck, William and Alexander, James Murray.

See the wild waste of all-devouring years!
How Rome her own sad sepulchre appears,
With nodding arches, broken temples spread!
The very Tombs now vanished like their dead!

POPE, Ep. V.

Every room

Hath blaz'd with lights, and brayed with minstrelsy.

TIMON OF ATHENS, Act. 2, Sc. 2.

IT would be a pleasing task to make special mention of that succession of planters in St. Johns, Berkeley, who, for so many generations, have adorned the name of Ravenel and preserved its virtues. But they were simple gentlemen of the olden school. In the language of Mr. Thomas P. Ravenel, himself a worthy representative, they "were merely planters." But that description means a vast deal to one who knows St. Johns. Theirs was a life of exceptional privilege. Comfort, ease, high breeding, continual social interchange, occasional travel, unlimited hospitality, marked the whole existence of the community. "Style" they did not affect, but they lived on so broad a plane that they had it unconsciously. Their parlors were rich with mirrors,