

## NOTES.

## HUGUENOT CHURCH.—DATE OF FOUNDING.

Reasons for the belief that the Huguenots had a church upon the site of their present building at the corner of Queen and Church streets, as early as 1681, which would give them priority over all other churches, were stated in the Charleston Year Book for 1885. The conclusion was sustained by convincing historical deduction, and by what was regarded as positive documentary proof.

Two facts, *inter alia*, were shown: 1. That under date of March 3, 1881, lot No. 65 of Charleston town lots, which is the same lot as is now occupied by the church, was surveyed for a grant to Michael Lovinge, or Lowell, or Loveing (the handwriting is hard to decipher). In the same bad hand, upon the margin of the grant, is written "ffrench church." In further confirmation of the above, a parchment roll, formerly an archive of the city of Charleston, dated 1725, giving numbers, dates, etc., of town lots, contains this entry: "65-2 (freh chch) 174-March 6-1681- Michael Loveing." General Wilmot G. DeSaussure, who had discovered these documents, who was an able antiquarian in his line, and who did an amazing amount of research into, and reproduction of, old land- and family-records of Charleston, remained firm in his adherence to the conclusions above announced until the time of his death.

2. It was also shown that in June, 1687, Cæsar Moze bequeathed to the church in Charleston a sum of money to be used in aiding to build a church in the country, which implies that the Charleston church was then well established, and had been previously built, or he would have aided it, and not another church.

The claim to the date 1681 was published through various channels, and repeatedly Dr. Vedder, through the local press, invited correction, if any one could show reasons for dissent; but, I believe, the conclusion remained unchallenged for more than twenty years, and until the appearance of General McCrady's Proprietary History of South Carolina.

In that book it is said: "The first church of the French Protestants, known as the Huguenot Church, was erected at some time between the years 1687 and 1698."

Dr. Vedder took the question up in a letter published in the *Charleston News and Courier*, January 14, 1898, and was replied to by General McCrady in the same paper, both gentlemen of course exercising much courtesy. General McCrady gives a very short statement of the transfers of the lot in question, as follows: Lovinge, the original grantee,