

X

ALONG THE CAROLINA COAST: NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA

Here [in the Carolinas] were men from civilized life scattered among the forests, hermits with wives and children, resting in the bosom of nature, in harmony with the wilderness of their gentle climate. With absolute freedom of conscience, reason and goodwill to man were the simple rule of their conduct.—*George Bancroft.*

54. The Carolina Coast.—Let us now turn to the low, sandy coast of the region that was first named Carolina by the French in honor of Charles IX of France, and that in the end retained this name in honor of King Charles II of England. After the attempts at settlement made by Lane and White (p. 21) the Carolina coast was for a time neglected. About the middle of the seventeenth century, however, English settlements began to appear along Albemarle Sound. The settlers came from Virginia, some to seek better farming- and grazing-lands, others to enjoy the freedom and independence of pioneer life.

These early settlements attracted the attention of a group of English gentlemen and noblemen, who, in 1663, applied to Charles II for a grant of land in the Carolina region. The king gave them a tract that was to extend from Virginia on the north to Florida on the south, and that embraced the present States of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In the westerly direction the tract was to extend, as usual, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This almost boundless region was given to eight royal favorites who were to hold it as absolute lords and proprietors.¹

55. North Carolina.—The proprietors at first placed the matter of government in the hands of Governor Berkeley of Vir-

¹ The proprietors were the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, Lord Berkeley, Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir William Berkeley, and Sir John Colleton.