NOTE IV. (p. 80.)

Some historians entirely overlook this temporary settlement of the French in the English Carolina; others confound it with the settlement at St. Matheo, a few leagues north of St. Augustine. Not one of them has ascertained the *place* of it, with precision. Chalmers says, Ribault built Fort Charles, on the river Edisto. The authors of the Universal History say, It was built on the river St. Croix, which indeed, Charlevoix says, was the Spanish name of Edisto river. Charlevoix says, Ribault's Fort stood near the place where Charlestown, the capital of South Carolina, now stands. Mezeray says, it was built " at the end of the Streights at St. Helens." I wrote, some time since, to Dr. Ramsay, the well known historian, and made inquiry of him respecting this article. The Doctor obligingly wrote to me in reply : " I have taken some pains to inform myself of the place where Ribaud commenced his settlement of French Protestants ; but without any satisfactory result. Edisto river, in its nearest part, is about 36 miles from Charleston ; but there is no evidence of any French settlement ever having been made in its vicinity. There is no river in South Carolina, known by the name of the Shallow or Base river. Mr. Drayton, our late governor, has been consulted on the points, relative to which you wish for information, who assured me, that, while writing his View of South Carolina, he minutely enquired into the very subjects, which have perplexed you, and found them so involved in darkness and contradiction, that he did not see his way clear to assert any thing on the subject, more than you will find in the 5th page of his work."

It would not become me to be positive on a subject, that is attended with such acknowledged difficulties, and that has baffled such intelligent inquiries. I am satisfied however, that neither the latitude of the place where the fort was built, nor its distance from the river of May*, will allow us to fix it so far north, as the river Edisto. It appears clearly to have been on an island up Port Royal river, in about the latitude of 32 deg. It seems probable, that it was the island of St. Helena, or some island in its vicinity. Mezeray's account seems to fix it there. Charlevoix, in his Map of the Coasts of Florida, has placed it in that quarter, though I apprehended, too far north, at an island toward the mouth of Edisto. It is asserted on the face of the map : " Dans cette Isle Ribault bâtit petit Fort, et le nomma *Charles Fort.*" There is one additional confirmation of the probable truth of my conjecture, concerning the place of that fort. When Ribault had " sailed about 15 leagues" from Port Royal river, he found another, which " had not past haife a fathome water in the mouth thereof." This he called *Base* or *Shallow* river. Gov. Drayton (p. 34.) says, " Edisto is shallow and incapable of being navigated far up its stream by boats of heavy burden ;" and, though he describes the numerous rivers of Carolina, this is the only one, which he calls *shallow.* Hence I conjecture, that *the Edisto of the English is the Base or Shallow river of the French.* If so, Fort Charles must have been about 15 leagues from it ; and that is about the distance of St. Helena from the Edisto.

NOTE V. (p. 163.)

It is not so difficult to *find* proofs, in support of the text, as it is to *select* them. They may be seen in Morton, 3—5 ; Hubbard's MS. N.

* *Sixty French leagues.* Charlevoix.

Eng. ;