

caps; the excessive rent was the paramount cause for migration at the time Rev. William Martin brought his people to South Carolina. (This theme recurs over and over in the petitions to the Governor for land by those coming from Ireland.)

Thus that portion of the tradition is true—this group, at least, left because they could not afford to remain, and for a place where they could get land virtually "for free," that is, South Carolina.

III

South Carolina: land offered to settlers

The first settlements in South Carolina were along the Coast, and the economy of the first fifty years was to a considerable extent based on rice plantations and slave labor.

Realizing that it would be advantageous for many reasons to have the settlements extend farther inland, where the soil was more suited to other uses and crops, and the increasing population would strengthen the colony, as early as 1731 "poor Protestants" were offered land if they came to the colony to settle. This was on the basis of 100 acres for the head of the family and 50 acres for every other person in the family. Instructions to Governor Lyttelton in 1755⁷ spell out the terms of the grant. The quit rent was to be 4 shillings proclamation money per 100 acres after two years from the date of the grant. When conditions of the grant were fulfilled, the grantee was entitled to another grant on the same basis. The grantee was required to clear and cultivate the land granted at the rate of three acres out of every hundred acres per year. As an additional encouragement, in 1752 it was provided that there was to be supplied for tools and provisions Five Pounds (£5) proclamation money for each person under 50 and over 12 years of age, and Two Pounds Ten Shillings for each under 12 and over 2 years.⁸

In 1754 a portion of the tax from which was provided the

"bounty" mentioned above, was authorized to be used to pay the fees for surveys and grants for such "poor protestants."⁹

There were changes from time to time in these Acts, mostly with respect to the taxes from which they were to be paid but also in the amounts and purposes of payment to the settler.

In July 1761, as the "encouragement heretofore given to poor protestants to become settlers in this province hath not had the desired effect," the bounty was changed. Hereafter, £4 sterling or the value thereof in current money of the Province would be paid to defray the expense of the passage from *Europe* of "every poor free protestant who hath not already received any bounty from this province, and who shall arrive in this province to settle from *Europe* within three years from the passage of this Act above the age of 12 years, and who shall, in case they come from *Great Britain* or *Ireland*, produce a certificate under the seal of any corporation or a certificate under the hands of the minister and church wardens of any parish, or the ministers and elders of any church, meeting, or congregation, of the good character of such poor protestants above the age of twelve years," and £2 sterling or the equivalent for such poor protestants under twelve and above two years or age brought within the time and for the purpose aforesaid; also twenty shillings sterling or equivalent to such poor protestants above the age of two years, to enable them to purchase tools and provisions. The passage money was to be paid to the owner or master of the vessel unless the emigrant had already paid for his passage, in which case it was paid to him.¹⁰

This legislation recognized the fact that the cost of transportation was a deterrent to migration and also that not all immigrants had funds with which to procure the type of tools needed to clear land and build a shelter. At the same time, the requirement of references insured settlers of high quality.

The several acts under which these "bounties" were paid

⁷ South Carolina Statutes, vol. IV, p. 11, No. 826, 11 May 1754.

⁸ Acts of the General Assembly of South Carolina passed in the year 1751. (From Microfilm Records of State of South Carolina, Session Laws 1760-1761; taken from Microfilm SC/R.2, Reel 4a, p. 7).

⁹ Public Records (South Carolina), vol. XXVI, p. 315 (ms.) in South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

¹⁰ South Carolina Statutes, vol. III, p. 781-782, No. 809, 7 Oct. 1752.

