

No river was so convenient to the sea-kings of the North as the Humber, from which, by the Trent, they navigated into the heart of Mercia, and by the Ouse penetrated to the richest parts of Northumbria. Hither Anglians, Danes, and Northmen directed their chiules, the moment the Roman legions were withdrawn: landing where they chose, the whole country was their prey. One of the most ancient ports on the Humber was, just at its mouth, sheltered from the sea by a point of land corresponding to that which we now call the 'Spurn.'

This port is named Ravenser in the middle of the 13th century; near it was an 'island,' thrown up by the sea, called 'Odd.' The names of Ravenser and Ravenser-od appear contemporaneously, sometimes distinctive, sometimes convertible, till the middle of the 14th century, when their short period of prosperity was ended by overwhelming inundations of the sea.

While Ravensrode flourished and decayed, the King's Town upon Hull was steadily growing in importance, perhaps to the detriment of the ancient port and town of Hedon. "The treuth is, when Hull began to flourish Heddon decaied." (Leland.)

Both Hedon and Ravenser were of sufficient importance to be summoned to send members to the Parliament of 33rd Edward I. (1305), which summons the 'citizens' obeyed. These demands were continued in the case of Ravenser, in the 20th of Edward II. (1326), and 2nd of Edward III. (1328), when they ceased, though the 'burgh' was still of consequence enough to be consulted in 1344, on naval affairs, by the King. After this, as Leland tells us "In Richard the Second's days the town of Hull waxed very rich", but Ravenspurne was dying away. In 1298, Hull and Ravenser presented petitions to Edward I. for privileges, the former offering the gift of 100 marks, the latter of 300.

Ravensrode might perhaps have withstood the rivalry of Hull, but by gradual steps it yielded to the sea. In 1346, the injury done to the manors of Saltehagh, Tharlesthorp, Frismerk, Wythefleet, Dymelton, and Ravensrode in Holderness, is ac-