

Bk. VII.  
Ch. 8.  
Original settlers.

The English, Dutch, and French, were the original settlers of this magnificent domain, but it is now populated by emigrants from nearly all the European countries. The Irish and German population is the most numerous, after the descendants of the primitive settlers.

Original States.

The original States were Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. On the 4th of March, 1789, the present Constitution of the United States was adopted.

Eighteen new States have since been admitted, viz. :

- New States.
1. Vermont, March 4th, 1791, which formed a part of the territory of New York and New Hampshire.
  2. Kentucky, June 1st, 1792, which formed a part of Virginia.
  3. Tennessee, June 1st, 1796, formed from the territory ceded to the United States by North Carolina.
  4. Ohio, Nov. 29th, 1802. Formed from territory ceded by Virginia.
  5. Louisiana, April 8th, 1812. Acquired, by purchase, from France.
  6. Indiana, Dec. 11th, 1816.
  7. Mississippi, Dec. 10th, 1817. Formed from the territory ceded to the United States by South Carolina and Georgia.
  8. Illinois, Dec. 3d, 1818.
  9. Alabama, Dec. 14th, 1819.
  10. Maine, March 15th, 1820. Originally a province of Massachusetts.
  11. Missouri, Aug. 10th, 1821. Formed from the French purchase.
  12. Arkansas, June 15th, 1836. Formed from the French purchase.

- Bk. VII.  
Ch. 8.  
New States.
13. Michigan, June 26th, 1837.
  14. Florida, March 3d, 1845. Ceded by Spain.
  15. Texas, Dec. 29th, 1845. Texas had been an independent republic for ten years.
  16. Iowa, Dec. 28th, 1846. Formed out of the Louisiana purchase.
  17. Wisconsin, May 29th, 1848.
  18. California, Dec. 9th, 1850.
- Besides these 31 States, there are the territories of
1. Oregon, erected Aug. 14, 1848.
  2. Minnesota, March 3d, 1849.
  3. Utah, Sept. 9th, 1850.
  4. New Mexico, Sept. 9th, 1850.
  5. Washington, in 1853.
  6. Kansas, in 1854.
  7. Nebraska, in 1854.
- Territories.

These confederated States and Territories have each an independent government, but they are also allied under one general government. The national capital is Washington. The expenses of the general government are chiefly defrayed by customs and the sale of public lands. The receipts for the fiscal year, ending June 30th, 1856, were \$73,918,141.46. The expenditures were \$72,948,792.02. The balance in the treasury, July 1st, 1856, was \$19,901,325.45. The public debt, Nov. 15th, 1856, was \$30,963,909.64. The value of foreign merchandise imported is about \$300,000,000 yearly, and the exports about \$250,000,000. About 9000 vessels, belonging to citizens of the United States, are employed in the commerce of the country, and their united tonnage amounts to nearly 4,000,000 tons. These vessels employ about 120,000 men. The aggregate number of acres of land under cultivation amounts to about 120,000,000, and of uncultivated, to about 200,000,000.

Finances.  
Commerce.  
Agriculture.

Bk. VII.  
Ch. 8.  
Productions. of acres. The value of farms and implements of husbandry is estimated at about \$3,500,000,000. It is calculated that there are about 5,000,000 of horses, 7,000,000 of cows, 12,000,000 of other cattle, 20,000,000 of sheep, and 30,000,000 of swine on the land. About 120,000,000 bushels of wheat, 600,000,000 bushels of Indian corn, and 3,000,000 bales of wool are annually produced. The value of animals slaughtered is over \$100,000,000 yearly. The capital invested in manufactures is not far from \$600,000,000, and the value of articles manufactured is double that amount. About 1,000,000 of people are employed in the various manufactories. The estimated value of real and personal property in the United States is about \$8,000,000,000.

Material  
wealth.

The coinage of the mint is about \$50,000,000 yearly. The total amount of gold produced in California, to October, 1857, was over \$400,000,000, of which \$260,000,000 have been exported. At this date, it is probable that there are \$150,000,000 more in circulation than in 1846.

Railroads. There are about 18,000 miles of railroads within the United States, involving an expenditure of many hundred millions of dollars.

Schools  
and Col-  
leges.

Of the population of the United States, about 4,000,000 are in regular course of instruction in colleges and schools. The teachers number 120,000. There are nearly 40,000 churches, owning property to an amount of more than \$90,000,000. About 3000 newspapers are printed in the various States. There are about 300 colleges and higher seminaries of law, medicine, and theology. The societies for the advance of literature, science, art, and morals, can hardly be estimated.

At the present time the general government is embroiled in a difficulty with the Mormon settlers in Utah,

growing out of the turbulent spirit of that people, who have heretofore set at defiance, not only the laws of the Union, but also those higher laws, recognized and respected by all civilized communities. The power of the Federal Government, aided as it is by the force of public opinion, must, however, necessarily compel these rebellious citizens either to acknowledge the supremacy of the laws or to remove to some other country.

The unsettled state of affairs in Mexico may lead to some complication of our relations with that nation; but no doubt can be entertained that the wisdom and experience of our Executive are equal to any emergency, and that they will be fully exerted to prevent the occurrence of any serious difficulty.

Another attempt to interfere with the internal policy of the State of Nicaragua, made by Colonel Walker, about the close of the year 1857, was nipped in the bud by the energetic conduct of Commodore Paulding, of the United States steam-frigate Wabash, who seized the entire party, after they landed on the shores of Nicaragua, and conveyed them back to the United States. No action was instituted by the United States government against Walker for a violation of the neutrality laws; and, though the matter was, for some weeks, a subject of debate in both houses of Congress, it was eventually overslaughed by the more exciting questions relating to our own domestic policy.

In point of intelligence, energy, and internal resources, this nation acknowledges no superior in the world; and it should be the endeavor, as well as the pride, of every citizen, not only to maintain this high position, but also to promote still further progress in all the ennobling sciences and arts of civilization. The task would be an

BR VII. easy one, if the spirit of patriotism were the inciting  
Ch. 8. motive; sectional questions would then cease to engross  
public attention, and the entire people would unite their  
energies for the benefit of the whole country.

Prosperity of the United States. The United States, in fact, have become the most civilized of nations, if the welfare of the great mass of the people is considered. No nation has ever been more favoured by circumstances and by nature. Free institutions, mild laws, and abundant means of support, make this country the hope and the pride of humanity; and if moral and religious improvement should keep pace with material civilization, then no limits can be assigned to the expansion of American power and wealth — no reach of fancy can divine the future brilliancy of American destinies.

## QUESTIONS

TO

### HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

#### BOOK I.—CHAPTER I.

PAGE 13. What was there peculiar to the latter part of the fifteenth century? What characterized the people?

14. What improvements took place in this period? What of sculptors, painters, scholars, poets, philosophers, and reformers? What, on the whole, made this epoch most memorable? Describe the progress of commercial enterprise.

15. What was the great problem of the age, and why was it? Who gave the most attention to it? What were the reasons which led him to infer the rotundity of the earth? What did he hope to accomplish by sailing west?

16. What were the ordinary passages to India? How was the project of Columbus received? Who encouraged him? What was the result? When did he discover America?

17. How was Columbus treated on his return? What effect had this treatment on him? With what reward must great benefactors be content? Who realized the idea of Columbus? What was the effect of Portuguese discoveries? What was the greater result of the discovery of America?

18. With whom does Columbus share his glory as a discoverer? By whom was Cabot patronized? What were the results of his voyages? Who competed with the English for the soil of America? What French navigator explored the coast?

19. Who first availed themselves of the discovery of America? What sections did they seek? Who conquered Mexico? What Indian Prince ruled the land? Describe his subjects. What excited the rapidity of the Spaniards? Describe the conquest of Peru.

20. When was Brazil discovered, and by whom? Were Spain and