



PREFACE

IN this text I have traced the history of our country's growth from its small and rude beginnings to its present grand proportions. In the treatment I have kept before my mind an ever-growing nation, and I have tried to tell the story in such a way that the pupil may follow as with the eye each successive advance in that wave of civilization which has always been moving toward the West. With the opening of the national period the motion of this wave became swift and strong. Between the close of the Revolution and the middle of the nineteenth century American civilization forced its way from the Alleghany Mountains to the Pacific coast. Almost within the bounds of a single long life a region half as large as Europe was cleared of savages and wild beasts and made the home of a peaceful and highly civilized race.

The vast importance of this Westward Movement has led me to give it special prominence. In order to give a correct picture of our country's growth I have found it necessary to follow the upbuilding of the West and Southwest step by step, State by State; and I have thought it wise to be liberal in the treatment of this Western development, for no more imposing movement has been witnessed by man, and there is no more inspiring subject of classroom work.

For the assistance of the teacher in review work I have placed