

# A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

## I

### COLUMBUS DISCOVERS A NEW WORLD

"My men grow mutinous day by day,  
My men grow ghastly wan and weak."  
The stout mate thought of home; a spray  
Of salt wave washed his swarthy cheek.  
"What shall I say, brave Admiral, say,  
If we sight naught but seas at dawn?"  
"Why, you shall say at break of day,  
'Sail on! sail on! sail on, and on!'"

*Joaquin Miller.*



The boyhood home  
of Columbus in  
Genoa.

**1. The Youth of Christopher Columbus.**—The story of America may properly open with an account of the deeds of Christopher Columbus. This remarkable man was born in the city of Genoa, Italy, about the year 1446. His father was a poor weaver whose earnings were hardly sufficient to support his family. Christopher, therefore, had to leave school at an early age and begin to earn his own living. At first he worked at his father's trade, but by the time he had reached his twenty-fifth year he was out on the sea leading the life of a sailor..

**2. Trade between Europe and the Orient.**—About the time young Christopher was growing into manhood, great changes were taking place in the world around him. His own city, Genoa, and the other cities of the Mediterranean as well, were losing their trade with the Orient, that is, with Persia, India, China, and the islands of the far East. Fierce Turks stood in the overland routes that led from the Mediterranean to the Orient, and would not allow merchants to pass. Turks also