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AROUND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY: VIRGINIA, MARYLAND

Old cradle of an infant world,
 In which a nestling empire lay
 Struggling awhile, ere she unfurled
 Her gallant wings and soared away:
 All hail! thou birthplace of the growing west,
 Thou seem'st the towering eagle's ruined nest.

From *James Kirke Paulding's Ode to Jamestown.*



The old tower at
 Jamestown.

Introduction.—Spain, France, Holland, Sweden, and England all wanted a share of the great American wilderness, and all joined in a scramble to get possession of the Atlantic coast of North America. Spain gained possession of Florida, but could go no farther north; France seized upon the St. Lawrence region and upon Nova Scotia, but could go no farther south. Holland and Sweden, as we shall learn, tried to get a foothold on the coast, but

were pushed off, and England at last was left the mistress of the seaboard from Nova Scotia to Florida.

25. English Settlements along the Atlantic Coast.—The early English settlements were all made close to the ocean. Of the thirteen colonies that became States each had its beginning on some bay or river or sound where there was a good chance for trading in furs, for you must know that furs have played a large part in the history of our country. New Hampshire had its beginnings on the Piscataqua River; Massachusetts, around Massachusetts Bay; Rhode Island, around Narragansett Bay; Connecticut, along the Connecticut River; New York and New Jersey, around New York Bay; Delaware and Pennsylvania, around the Delaware Bay; Maryland and Virginia, around the Chesapeake Bay; North Carolina, on the Albemarle Sound;