

## XXII

ALONG THE KENTUCKY, THE TENNESSEE, AND THE  
OHIO: KENTUCKY; TENNESSEE; THE NORTH-  
WEST TERRITORY

The westward-moving frontier of the American people is beyond doubt the most interesting subject that American history presents.—*Ellen Churchill Semple.*

**Introduction.**—We have already learned (p. 90) how the colonists at an early date began to push out toward the West. In truth, the history of the United States was for nearly two hundred and fifty years the history of a mighty Westward Movement which began at Jamestown in 1607 and which did not end until the Pacific coast was reached in the middle of the nineteenth century. Throughout this whole period the current of American life was always setting strongly to the West. Men were always leaving the older Eastern settlements and pushing deeper and deeper into the Western forests and farther and farther out on the Western plains. In studying the history of our country, therefore, we must from time to time turn away from the affairs of the nation, from the deeds of Presidents and of Congress, to observe the progress of this Westward Movement and learn how the great wild West was brought under the control of the white man and built up into flourishing States.

**126. The Westward Movement in Colonial Times.**—The progress of the Westward Movement in colonial times was slow. A hundred and fifty years passed before the frontier line was pushed beyond the Appalachian ridge. This slowness was due in part to the action of the English government. Soon after England (in 1763) came into possession of the country west of the Alleghanies (p. 113) the king issued a proclamation reserving most of the newly acquired territory for the use of the Indians and forbidding the governors of the colonies to grant lands to white men west of the mountains. If this plan