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OUR COUNTRY IN THE YEAR 1800

Oh mother of a mighty race,
Yet lovely in thy youthful grace!

W. C. Bryant.

Introduction.—The story of our country's growth has now been brought down to the end of the eighteenth century. Beginning with Virginia, we have seen thirteen sturdy British colonies planted along the Atlantic coast. We have seen these colonies throw off the British yoke and become independent States. We have seen these States united by "the iron bands of the Constitution" into a nation, and we have seen that nation begin its career happily under the Presidency first of Washington and then of Adams.

What kind of a country did we have in the time of Washington and Adams? We have learned (p. 80) what kind of a country British America was in the year 1700. What kind of a country was the United States of America in the year 1800?

131. Frontier Line in 1800; Population.—The area of American civilization was vastly greater in 1800 than it was in 1700. In 1700 the Frontier Line ran very close to the seaboard. Nowhere had it reached the Alleghany Mountains. In 1800 the Frontier Line (colored map) was beyond the Alleghanies, and in some places it ran hundreds of miles west of these mountains. Beginning at Oswego, New York, draw a line to Cleveland, to Cincinnati, to Louisville, to Nashville, to Savannah, and you will have the Frontier Line in 1800. You will observe that by 1800 fully half the area of what was then the United States had been brought within the pale of civilization.

In 1800 the population of the region east of the Frontier Line was more than twenty times as great as it was in 1700. The Constitution provided for a counting of the people every ten years, and in 1790, when the first census was taken, the population of