

## XXVI

### ALONG THE OHIO RIVER: OHIO, INDIANA, ILLINOIS

To the blossoming banks of the "Beautiful River,"  
And into the depths of the shadowy woods  
Where the sun-lighted streams of the prairie deliver  
The "Father of Waters" their silvery floods,  
Undaunted by danger, unconquered, true-hearted,  
With ax-beaten march the brave pioneers came,  
And the wild tangled vine of the wilderness parted  
As Progress swept onward with banners of flame.

*Lee O. Harris.*

**Introduction.**—While Adams, Jefferson, and Madison were asserting our rights as a nation and achieving our independence in matters of trade, the great work of winning the West did not cease for a single day. We shall do well at this point, therefore, to turn back a few years and take up the story of the Westward Movement.

**154. Ohio Becomes a State; the Sale of Public Lands.**—When we left the story of the Westward Movement the eastern part of the old Northwest Territory had been set off as a separate Territory and was looking forward to statehood (p. 176). In 1802 Congress passed a law enabling the people of this Territory to frame a constitution for themselves. Accordingly, a constitutional convention met at Chillicothe and drew up a constitution. This was accepted by Congress, and in 1803 the Territory Northwest of the Ohio was admitted into the Union as the State of Ohio.

Now that it was a State, Ohio grew more rapidly than ever. A chief cause of its growth was the liberal policy which the national government adopted with respect to the public lands of the Northwest Territory. Congress, as we have seen (p. 154), could dispose of these lands as it saw fit. At first it sold the land only in large tracts, and nobody but the rich could buy. In 1800, however, it adopted a new plan. It divided the land