

## XXVII

### AROUND THE GULF OF MEXICO: LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA. MISSOURI

By the side of the picture of the advance of the pioneer farmer, bearing his household goods in his covered wagon to his new home across the Ohio, must be placed the picture of the Southern planter crossing through the forests of western Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, or over the free State of Illinois to the Missouri valley, in his family carriage, with servants, packs of hunting-dogs, and a train of slaves.—*F. J. Turner.*



The old New Orleans City Hall.

**Introduction.**—The story of the Westward Movement now takes us from the banks of the Ohio to the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and to the western bank of the Mississippi. During the years in which a kingdom of wheat and corn was rising in the Northwest there was rising in the Southwest a kingdom of

cotton and sugar: the rapid growth of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois at the North was matched at the South by the rapid growth of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

**160. Louisiana.**—When the great region of Louisiana came into our possession in 1803 it was at once given by President Jefferson to his young friend William Claiborne to be governed as he might think proper until Congress should provide for the Territory a regular form of government. Governor Claiborne took possession of Louisiana in the city of New Orleans in December, 1803. He met the French officials in the *cabildo* (or city hall), a building which is still standing and which a hundred years ago was probably the finest public building in America. After proclaiming that Louisiana belonged to the United States, the French governor handed over to Claiborne the keys of the city of New Orleans. The new governor then stepped to the