

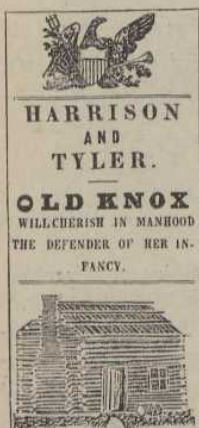
XXXI

HARRISON AND TYLER; POLK; THE GREAT WESTWARD EXTENSION

Across the Stony Mountains, o'er the desert's drouth and sand,
The circles of our empire touch the western ocean's strand.

The mighty West shall bless the East, and sea shall answer sea,
And mountain unto mountain call, Praise God, for we are free.

John Greenleaf Whittier.



Harrison and Tyler
campaign badge.

Introduction.—By 1840 much of the best land east of the Mississippi had been taken and pioneers had begun to push out into the free unoccupied lands of the far Northwest and of the far Southwest. This pressure of population westward and the hunger for new land resulted, between 1840 and 1850, in an enormous westward extension of our territory, and the chief aim of this chapter will be to give an account of that extension.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON AND JOHN TYLER (1841-45)

188. The Election of 1840.—In 1840 the Democrats nominated Van Buren for a second term. The Whig party—as the party opposed to the Democrats was now called—nominated William Henry Harrison, the Tippecanoe victor, for President, and John Tyler of Virginia for Vice-President. Clay desired the nomination for the Presidency and was bitterly disappointed when he failed to receive it.

The campaign of 1840 was noisy and exciting. Harrison was a plain man, living in a plain way on a farm in Ohio, and an Eastern newspaper suggested that it would be better for the