

## XXXIII

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ZACHARY TAYLOR  
AND MILLARD FILLMORE (1849-53)

The study of slavery leads to the feeling that in this instance the mantle of charity cannot be too broad: it needs to be stretched over both North and South. For all slave-owners were not vicious: all antislavery men were not enemies or wishers of evil to the South.—*F. E. Chadwick.*

**Introduction.**—In the last two chapters we learned that between 1840 and 1850 the energies of the American people were bent chiefly upon acquiring new territory and developing and organizing new States. In 1850 the people were brought face to face with the slavery question, and for many years thereafter this great question held the chief place in their hearts and minds. In this chapter we shall study the institution of slavery as it existed in the United States sixty years ago, and shall learn of the effort which was made in 1850 to solve the slavery problem.

**203. The Election of 1848; Taylor and Fillmore.**—In 1848 it was plainly foreseen that the slavery question must soon arise, yet in the presidential campaign of that year neither of the great parties said a word about the subject. The Whigs said nothing about anything; they made no platform. They nominated General Zachary Taylor of Louisiana for President and Millard Fillmore of New York for Vice-President. Clay was in the race for the Whig nomination, but on the first ballot Taylor showed greater strength.<sup>1</sup> The Democrats made a long platform, but it was silent on the subject of slavery. They nominated for President Lewis Cass (p. 245) of Michigan. The Free-Soil party, made up of those Whigs and Democrats who were opposed to slavery, held a convention at Buffalo and nominated ex-President Van Buren for the Presidency. The Free-Soilers in their platform came out against slavery in the

<sup>1</sup> This was the fifth time Clay had come forward as a candidate for the Presidency.