

## IX.—ON THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI.

St. Lou-is [*Saint Loo'-is*].  
rep'-tiles.

plan-ta'-tions.  
New Or'-le-ans.

al'-li-ga-tors.  
lev'-ee [*lev'-y*].

1. BELOW the mouth of the Missouri, is *St. Louis*, the largest city upon the banks of the Mississippi. It is also one of the largest and best located places in the United States. Its position on the Mississippi enables it to send boats from its wharves, not only to every city and village along this river, but also to those on the Missouri.

2. But this is not all. Not far below *St. Louis*, is the mouth of the *Ohio*, which is also a tributary of the Mississippi. By this stream, boats can be sent to Cincinnati and Pittsburg, and other places on its banks. Thus, by these three great rivers, and the smaller ones flowing into them, *St. Louis* can easily trade with every part of the rich plain through which they flow. Besides, like Cincinnati, railroads lead from this city in all directions. A long and handsome bridge, with railroad tracks as well as a carriage way, crosses the Mississippi here.

3. Below the mouth of the *Ohio*, the rich country through which the Mississippi flows begins to be covered with fields of cotton, instead of wheat and corn. In the spring, the young plant may be seen starting up from the seeds, in long lines across the fields. It grows rapidly, and puts forth branches like a little tree; and in summer it is covered with pretty pale-yellow flowers. Towards autumn, instead of flowers, there is a