

of which is very durable, and is excellent for building ships. Now we sail along the coast of *Florida*, the most southern State of our country. Finally we turn westward, pass into the Gulf of Mexico, and at length arrive at New Orleans.

13. We have now seen the eastern half of the United States, the part in which are very many of the great cities, and in which a large part of the people live. Everywhere we have found rich farms, fine forests, or fruitful prairies; and in every part, are rivers and lakes, some small, others so very large that we can sail upon them hundreds and even thousands of miles.

14. This half of the United States, with its rich lands, its great lakes, and long rivers, extends beyond the Mississippi, almost half way to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. You will find the western half very different; but I hope it will interest you to learn something about it.

XVI.—IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COUNTRY.

buf'-fa-loes. | pas'-ture. | Den'-ver.

1. THE prairie land, beginning along the Mississippi, extends westward to the Rocky Mountains, the limit of the Great Central Plain. The far western prairies, however, are not all rich and beautiful like those along the Mississippi, but are high, and, in many parts, dry and naturally barren. On these prairies herds of *buffaloes* used to feed, and the wild Indians used to roam. They lived in little huts, and spent their time in hunting and fighting. They hunted the buffaloes for the