

THE NORTH-WEST DURING THE REVOLUTION.

"The North-West" has had, in our history, no fixed locality. It has been constantly receding from the Atlantic coast with each advancing wave of the great tide of emigration, and has in succession crossed the Alleghanies,—passed beyond the Great Lakes—the Mississippi—the desert plains of the West—and the Rocky Mountains; and its onward march has only been stayed by the waters of the Pacific.

But the North-West of which I shall speak, has a well defined locality and fixed boundaries. It comprises the region encompassed by the Ohio, the Mississippi and the Great Lakes, and embraces the territory now occupied by the five great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, with a population of over nine millions, and rich with the productions of human industry and human art.

No other section of the Union of the same area, comprises so many advantages, or is capable of sustaining so dense a population. With scenery of great and diversified beauty, a climate varied and delightful, a soil of surpassing richness and fertility, sustaining a wealth of timber that the energies of man cannot destroy for generations to come, with exhaustless mines of lead, iron, coal, copper and salt, and traversed and environed by noble rivers and Great Lakes, the equal of which are not to be found upon the face of the earth, it is not surprising that its growth in population and wealth is without a parallel in the history of the world.

At the commencement of the American Revolution, there was not a settlement of English origin within this whole territory, and its entire population, other than Indians, did not probably exceed five thousand.