

CHAPTER XXXII

CONCLUSION

Spain's Outlook in America. — The Spanish were earliest upon our shores, but they wasted their time and resources in wild searches for gold, until they lost control of the sea. They did not know the importance of honest labor, and they had killed or driven from Spain all their best people. They made it a crime for a man to think for himself either in politics or religion. Every prosperous nation must have workers and thinkers, but Spain had neither. The Spanish rulers and nobles claimed to have Teutonic blood in their veins, but they had lost the spirit of liberty and all other virtues of the Teutons. Since they ruined their own country, they deserved to fail in the struggle for possession of America.

The French as Builders. — The French had seized the two gateways to North America by taking hold of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi. They held the best portions of the continent, and had secured the friendship of all the Indian tribes save the Iroquois. But they had scattered widely in search of furs instead of settling down to industrious labor and home-making. Since they were governed at home by an absolute king, the colonists had no freedom or voice in their laws. The governors of Canada were chosen in Paris, and there, too, the laws were made; so there was no inducement for men of strong mind and heart to settle in Canada. France, like Spain, robbed herself of her best workers and thinkers, when the Catholic king persecuted and drove away the Huguenots.