

life at the touch of trade, and pass out of barbarism into civilization. For centuries the Mediterranean continues to be the centre of the world; and Asia, Africa and Europe contend for supremacy in the land locked sea. The Hansa towns rise to power and prosperity by extending their commerce to the north, but their source of wealth is still the eastern trade. Venice, risen from the sea and become the queen of the Adriatic, is long the most prosperous maritime power of the world; and Britain, a lone island in the northern seas, has still no dream of empire. Europe, inspired by the migrations on land and sea which awoke her sleeping energies through contact with the ancient East, when her knights poured into Asia to rescue the birth-spot of Christianity from the desecration of the infidel, is building her great monarchies on the ruins of the Middle Ages, when a Genoese sailor, trusting a larger vision, under the patronage of Spain, turns the prows of his little fleet into the darkness of the western seas, to find another continent. Returning, Columbus has changed the front of the world once more, the Atlantic becomes the highway of nations, the illimitable West rises everywhere to bar the search for a shorter path to India, and a New World is added to the trophies of Mankind.

The whole force and energy of Europe are now directed toward the sea, and all the maritime powers are eager to plough the ocean with their navies, and sow their colonies over the globe. A new Spain, a new France and a new England come into being, to repeat the struggles of the Old World in seeking the primacy of the New. A slender line of rude settlements springs up along the Atlantic seaboard of America, taking possession of the broad middle zone. The Spanish cannot de-

stroy it on the south, the French cannot drive it into the sea from the north and northwest, for it carries in its blood domestic and civic virtues bred in the forests of Germany, and liberties wrested from powerful kings through centuries of freedom and self-rule. Sturdy, industrious, self-reliant, the increasing stream of population presses westward, building camps and cabins in the wilderness. The thrilling history of westward expansion across the American continent is the most brilliant chapter in the history of civilization, the greatest exhibition of human energy in the long battle of man with nature. Independence gained, the great North-west Territory ceded to the United States by Great Britain, the self-governing colonies federated into a nation, the Constitution framed, the vast national domain, through a supreme act of sovereignty, ruled in the name of the people, an irrepressible race crosses the Rocky Mountains, or reaches the golden shores of California by the slow ships which circumnavigate South America. The natural wealth of the Pacific slope attracts adventurous men, fearless, enterprising, indomitable, who, in their country's name, without etiquette or formality of any kind, take possession of the continent's western rim. We need not pause to speak of military occupation, conquest or cession, as we follow these swift and sure movements of destiny; for all are unimportant in the light of the controlling fact that strong men have at length arrived, capable of redeeming nature, ready and able to plant justice, law and political institutions, where but yesterday only wild vegetation and rude races grew and perished in the rank luxuriance of a primeval age.

The foremost in this race across the continent, voluntary exiles from