

4. How different is America now, studded with cities, towns, and villages, crossed by roads and railways, while steamboats and vessels go to and fro upon its large lakes and rivers! Much of the forest has been cleared away, and in its place fields of grain wave in the sunlight, and churches, schools, and farm-houses dot the surface of the country. You seldom see an Indian now, and the most of the people in America have light complexions like the people in Europe. The reason is, they are either Europeans, or the descendants of Europeans.

5. How have these changes happened? What led the people of Europe to find their way across the ocean—across three thousand miles of water—to this continent? And when they found it covered with forests and inhabited by savages, why did they come back to it again, more and more of them, until the whole land is now in the possession of the white man?

6. If you look around you thoughtfully, you will learn the very cause that led to the settlement of America. You will see that the people do not spend their time in hunting and fishing, as the Indians did, but in tilling the ground, in buying and selling, and sending their grain and merchandize to other lands, for which they bring back goods not produced in this country. It was this **desire to trade** which led the white man across the Atlantic.

7. Look next at the map of the Eastern Hemisphere. Four hundred years ago, the European nations that were great traders were the English, French, Spaniards and some others bordering on the Mediterranean sea. Ships used to sail as far eastward on this sea as Constantinople and other ports, and were there laden with rich goods brought overland from various parts of Asia. A large portion of these goods consisted of spices, beautiful cloths, gems and precious stones, and gold and silver from **India**.