

WESTWARD HO!—I

1. THERE was great rejoicing in St. Malo when the travellers returned safe and sound. The townfolk crowded round to hear and to see everything, and the two natives, dressed in the richest of clothes, were feasted as if they had been princes.

2. Next spring it was decided that Cartier must make another voyage to the west, and, eager to see for themselves, several gentlemen joined the cruise. Before weighing anchor the party took the sacrament together in the Cathedral, and the fleet and all it contained were solemnly blessed by the Lord Bishop in his robes.

3. This time there were three ships—the *Great Hermina*, the *Little Hermina*, and one called the *Pinnesse*. The vessels hoped to have kept together, but unfortunately a raging tempest soon drove them apart. For two long months none knew what had become of the others, though, strange to say, they all turned up about the same time at Newfoundland.

4. As had been arranged, the three ships went on together as straight as possible for the mouth of the St. Lawrence. It might be a great river or only a deep inlet, but they were determined to trace it to the end.

5. As the stream became narrower, however, and the mountains were seen on either side, the matter was set at rest once for all. It was the grandest river the explorers had ever seen. The rocky shores and islands were covered with dense, silent forest, already touched with the glowing tints of autumn. The Frenchmen, in speechless wonder, looked at the beautiful scene they were passing.

6. Sailing slowly the ships kept up a constant sounding, in order to avoid accident. The Indian lads, who