

## CHAPTER I

### INVASIONS AND INVADERS

WHEN the attention of the people was being directed toward Halley's comet in 1910 the *New York Sun* published a review of some of the more important historical events in progress at the previous appearances of this heavenly visitor. Among these events were the invasion of Italy by the Huns in 373, of Gaul and Italy by Attila in 451, and of England by the Saxons and the establishment of their kingdom in 530. The fact that the comet frightened the Saxons and cheered the Normans in 1066 "possibly influenced the success of William the Conqueror's invasion of England." The appearance of the comet in 1456 prompted Pope Calixtus III to order prayers for the safety of Europe against the invasion of the Turks. And not the least in world importance, the colonisation of America by the English, was coincident with the comet's visit in 1607.

At the time of the appearance of the comet in 1910 there was in progress the most remarkable and in many ways the most wonderful invasion of one country by peoples of foreign countries that the world had ever seen. In the very month of May, when the comet's appearance in the heavens was being heralded in