

CHAPTER V

IMMIGRATION AND THE SOUTH

THE great and unparalleled exodus of populations from Europe and their peopling of the United States—this remarkable outpouring of millions of people from all parts of Europe which is designated as immigration—marks a great historical event and is pregnant with meaning to more than one country and nation. The movement, like the ebb and flow of the tide, came at intervals, now and then receding only to renew its volume later on. The recurring waves broke and dispersed upon our eastern shore, crested the mountain barriers, poured into the newer agricultural states west of the Alleghenies, found their way to the Mississippi and across that river to the Great Plains, and even trickled as far as the Pacific Ocean.

Some of the positive economic forces that operated prior to 1880 to distribute the older immigrant races in particular throughout the north central states have been emphasised. We have yet to understand what might be called the negative forces which also had an influence in bringing about this distribution. Among them were those which prevented the immigrant from going into that large section of the country south of the Ohio and east of the Mississ-