**CHAPTER 12**

**ANTEBELLUM CULTURE AND REFORM**

**As you read the chapter, take notes on the following:**

1. During this period, how did American intellectuals create a national culture committed to the liberation of the human spirit? How did their efforts relate to the efforts of social reformers?

2. How did the spirit of romanticism influence American culture from the 1820s through the 1850s? How might a "realist" respond to the philosophy of the transcendentalists?

3. What role did religion and religious leaders play in the reform movement described in this chapter?

4. What goals prompted the founding of experimental communities in nineteenth-century America? Why did some communities, such as Brook Farm and New Harmony, fail and others, especially the Mormons, succeed?

5. Who were the major critics of slavery? On what grounds did they attack the institution and what means to end it did they propose?

6. How did the reform movement affect the status of women? What role did women play in these efforts to change society and what were they able to accomplish?

7. What role did education play in the creation of a national culture committed to the liberation of the human spirit?

8. Discuss how and why the antislavery movement in America changed during the course of the nineteenth century. Analyze the reasons for and the results of the internal strains and divisions that characterized abolitionism.

9. Explain how sentimental novels of the era "gave voice to both female hopes and female anxieties."