

the wood contract, together with that for supplying the fort with beef; and at this business, which he well understood, in connection with the cultivation of a farm on the bluff where he cut his wood, he made money quite fast, as he was industrious and saving. He sent for his family, which he had left in the state of New York, and paid off some old scores that he had previously been unable to do, and had some money left for which he had no immediate use. Notwithstanding he knew nothing about merchandizing, he concluded as he expressed it, "that the merchants were coining money, and that he would have a hand in;" and borrowing some means in addition to his own, went to St. Louis and purchased a small stock of goods, which, as might be expected, were not very judiciously selected for the market. During this time his brother Gorham arrived by his assistance, whom he took into partnership; but knowing as little about mercantile affairs as his brother, the business was not very well conducted. Both had large families to support, and it appears that they kept no account of expenses, or of what each took from the store. If one wanted an article, the other took something else to balance it. They continued business for about two years, when they took an account of stock, and found a deficiency of about three thousand dollars, for which they could not account; and as goods to this amount had been taken from the store without keeping any account of them, it did not at first occur to their minds that their families had consumed them. This satisfied Mr. Tainter that money was not so easily gained by merchandizing as he had supposed, and he returned to farming, and is now a resident and worthy citizen of the county.

In the year 1842, the Rev. Mr. Stephens, of the Presbyterian church, who had been on a missionary service somewhere in the Indian country, came as a missionary of that denomination, formed a church, and continued here two or three years. There being too few members of his church to supply the means of support with the stipend he received from the Missionary Society he left