

five miles distant from us, they once came within a mile of us in chasing the wild horses. Those engaged in the chase were, of course, mounted on well-trained steeds, while others were in groups on foot, taking care of the restless animals that had been taken.

When these unwelcome Indians disappeared, we took the matter into serious consideration, and as painfully as I regretted to abandon our intended exploration to the Pacific, it seemed madness to attempt any further progress; and so we reluctantly turned our faces to the eastward; and when we got what we deemed pretty safe hunting ground, in what is now eastern Kansas, and western Arkansas and Missouri, we pitched our camp, and went to hunting, mostly for beaver. We then little dreamed that the white settlements would extend to that region for the next five hundred years. Our main camp was near the head waters of one of the northern tributaries of the Arkansas; and having no traps, we procured the beaver musk, and placed it some distance from the shore, which tempted the animals to go and smell it, when we would secrete ourselves and shoot them.

During the autumn of 1809, all of the year 1810, and the winter of 1810-11, we steadily pursued our hunting; and, in the spring of 1811, we gathered and packed up all of our beaver, otter and bear skins—about fifty beaver and otter, and about three hundred bear skins, and eight hundred gallons of bear's oil; and making canoes or pirogues on one of the head waters of White River, we conveyed our skins and oil to them by the three horses which we had taken with us in all our journeyings. The oil was carried in sacks made of bear skins, one being swung on either side of a horse.—Lashing our boats together, and trading off our horses to friendly Indians, we descended White River to the Mississippi, and thence, stopping briefly at one Turnbull's, an English planter, upon the high bluff where Vicksburg now stands, and at Natchez, we passed down the river, and arrived at New Orleans about the first of May.

Here another disappointment was in store for us; the Embargo,