

state that while in St. Louis there was an arrival of a small flat-bottomed steam-boat, and the whole population rushed to the river to see the great sight.

It took me some six weeks to effect my purchases. I purchased altogether two hundred and sixty-two head very cheap, paying about two dollars per hundred pounds for beef cattle, and from five to seven dollars apiece for cows. I left Carrollton about the middle of May; passed through Jacksonville where there were a few houses; the next place was Springfield, which had a population of about two hundred. Thence I went to Sangamon, where I met Ebenezer Brigham, from Worcester County, Massachusetts. He was the first live Yankee that I had seen from my native county, since I had left there in 1816, and I was the first that he had seen from that county. I had a yoke of blind oxen that gave my men a great deal of trouble to drive. As Brigham had a tread-mill, I thought my blind oxen would do as well for that purpose as though they could see; so I proposed to the gentleman from Worcester County to exchange my oxen for a horse. He said as we were both from Worcester County he would try and accommodate me. I told him my oxen were a little blind, but I thought they would do him good service. After it became a little dark, I took him to see my oxen; he liked them very well. He then took me to see his horse. It was by this time quite dark; I did not examine him much, but he appeared to be a fine looking animal. We exchanged honorably, as we were both from Worcester County; we did not wish to take any advantage of each other as we were from the same native region. In a word, we felt and acted like brothers. But the next morning, when I joined the drove, I found that my new horse was as blind as a bat, and I do believe he had not seen for ten years; and he appeared older than the ancient hills around us! But it was all right, as friend Brigham and I were both from Worcester County. We have, many a time since, laughed heartily over our early trade.

Thence we went to the rapids of the Illinois River, a short