

keeping their engagements. Very little money was in circulation. There were no lawyers to excite strife. Notwithstanding all this fair appearance, there were those among them, regarded as otherwise honorable, fair and clever, who would defraud and overreach his neighbor, even to despoiling him of his last copper.

After making the necessary arrangements, I started down the Mississippi for my wintering ground with the Sauk Indians. On arriving at the place, I found a house empty, in which some trader had wintered the year before. Possession, I thought, being nine points in law, I set all hands to making repairs, and stowed my goods into it. The next business was to give a portion of my goods on credit to a people I never before had seen. However, it was the mode of carrying on trade, and I must "get used to it." My house, which was now all right, had four good rooms, and two fireplaces—one in my room, and one in the rear or kitchen, which also warmed Lady Bartram on her east wing, and the shop or store in the west wing. Although neither papered nor carpeted, it was compact, warm and comfortable, in this un-Christian country, and uninhabited except by savages.

All being thus fixed, I embarked my retail shop goods, under the impression of making a *haul*, with my laces, muslins, satin slippers, etc. One day and a half [probably from about the locality of Quincy] on the swift current of the Mississippi, brought me to the Spanish town of St. Louis. I called on, and obtained leave from the Spanish regal authority, to open shop, hired a house, and exposed my precious finery in the dress line. Many called, admired, and would call again; some would go in for fifty or one hundred francs, if I would take *dairy* in pay—which was there understood to include cabbage, turnips and other vegetables, but no silver. We could not dicker, so after many days rent at one shilling and eight cents per day, to pay which made a hole in my stock of muslins, therefore, I must pack up and go. The only money I got or saw was one York shilling, and this from Mrs. Myers, a Jewess, from Montreal, for a ball of cotton wicking.

When I got back to my trading-post, I found four opposition traders—Monsieurs St. John, Blondeau, Berthelot, and Carron. They were all old hands, and viewed me as an intruder, and would