bitant price for his service—so much so, that I remember the company went on without paying him.

From Natchez we traveled directly west until we struck the Red River; this we followed up stream as high as where the Fort Towson Barracks are, and camped on a branch, or creek, called Le Bontte Run.   Here the emigrants halted for a while to recruit, and holding a consultation for future proceedings, which resulted in a determination to settle on the prairie land near what they called the Cross Timbers, a tract of country watered by numerous streams, well timbered, and with soil of the richest qualities.   But the novelty the journey promised at the start, had been sobered down to a stern reality during the last six months, and instead of accompanying the party into the then Mexican territory, I remained with a Scotchman, who had taken a Choctaw squaw for a wife, and kept a trading post on the head waters of the Sabine River.   With this Scotchman, I stayed during the winter 1819, and in the spring of 1820 went down to New Orleans, with five voyageurs, to get a keel-boat load of goods for the Scotch trader, who had entrusted me with the business, for he took a liking to me, and knew of no other person in whom he could put as much confidence.   The Red River was a narrow, crooked, turbid stream, steep banks on either side, and filled with snags; but the winter rains had swollen it, so we floated down without accident.

On reaching New Orleans, I had no little trouble with the boatmen, whom I did not know how to manage at that time, though experience afterwards taught me the *modus operandi.*

It was eight or ten weeks before I had collected all the Indian goods; but what hindered most was the indolence of the French *voyageurs,* who would go to some of the low dance houses in the town, and spree all night, which made them useless all the next day; so in one or two instances I was obliged to hire creoles to assist in loading goods that had been brought to the river.

One evening after the boat's load was complete, and the men pretty well over the previous night's frolic, I gave orders to