

able to them to the full amount of his vast estate for the supplies of the American army. His heart and soul were enlisted in the cause of human freedom. The blood of the country of Tell burned in his veins, and all his means were exhausted in the glorious conquest of Illinois. In payment for his advances, Virginia agreed to give him thirty thousand acres of land in Kentucky; but after the State was organized, it was impossible to carry out the agreement."¹

After the close of the Revolution, Charles Gratiot left the Illinois country and settled in Upper Louisiana, at St. Louis. He had come there with a splendid business reputation acquired in the Illinois country and elsewhere, and the historian of St. Louis says that at this time he was better known in Paris, London, and Geneva than on this continent. He married Victoire Chouteau, the sister of Pierre and Auguste Chouteau, and, allying himself to the founders of St. Louis, he came to be distinguished as one of its most enterprising and conspicuous citizens. Enjoying an ample fortune for that time, his home was the center of hospitality. His perfect knowledge of the English language, then almost unknown in that part of the country, brought to him all strangers visiting St. Louis.

Though for so long a time within Spanish jurisdiction, and nominally under Spanish rule, the people of St. Louis were thoroughly and completely French in language, habits and thought. When in 1800, Spain retroceded Upper Louisiana to France, the people of St. Louis rejoiced in being under the French flag. But in three years afterward France ceded all Louisiana to the United States. The treaty making the cession was ratified April 30, 1803; but the news of

¹ When it was learned, in the spring of 1780, that a formidable expedition of British and Indians was being fitted out against St. Louis, the inhabitants of that place, despairing of successful resistance, deputed Charles Gratiot to solicit the aid of Col. George Rogers Clark, then at Fort Jefferson, a short distance below the mouth of the Ohio. Clark quickly responded to this appeal, and hastened himself, with such a detachment as he could spare, for Cahokia, the nearest American garrison to the point of the threatened attack. The British and Indians were repulsed—Clark and his troops aiding in driving back this savage horde. See Beck's *Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri*, p. 325. L. C. D.