

uncle, Mr. Bernard, which had been left to him, and which was very considerable. The State of Virginia, of which Illinois then formed a part, had large transactions with Mr. Gratiot, then residing in St. Louis, and had become indebted to him for more than a hundred thousand dollars for supplies, money advanced, etc. In part payment, Mr. Gratiot was obliged to take a large amount of land scrip, to be located in Kentucky, then almost a wilderness, and Louisville a mere military post. These lands upon which the scrip was located, were comparatively worthless, and by the burning of the land offices at Frankfort, Kentucky, and at Richmond, Virginia, simultaneously, the evidence of location was destroyed, and no title was ever obtained. After giving him the scrip, the State still owed Mr. Gratiot \$18,000, and he employed James Monroe, afterwards president, to prosecute his claim, which, though proved and recognized, was never paid.

When we landed in St. Louis, in 1817, it was a small place, the population not exceeding fifteen hundred, and only four brick buildings. The two Messrs. Chouteau, Auguste and Pierre, had large stone houses with broad verandas, all around. Mr. Gratiot's was also a large stone house, with a wide gallery in front, and stood on Main street, on the corner of what is now Pine. All the rest were low houses of more or less respectable appearance, with large yards and gardens surrounded by picket fences. There were no pavements, no sidewalks, and the streets (there were but three improved) were muddy in the extreme. But it soon began to improve rapidly. If the town was not attractive, the situation was most beautiful, and the rolling country back of it, perfectly lovely. Who could have dreamed then of this Queen of the West. The population, composed principally of French residents, was of the most agreeable and hospitable type, many highly refined and intelligent people. I was then very young, and spoke the English language but imperfectly, and knew but

tured, he was rescued by Pecan, a noted Miami chief, as the Indian party was passing through his village with their captive. The famous Ottawa chief, Pontiac, had been dead some ten or twelve years. L. C. D.