

quired. We spread our blankets upon the bare ground, which was the floor of our hostelry, but slept quite as soundly as one might in the best chamber of a palace hotel. This man was fairly wild on the subject of lead mining. He had bought a quarter-section of land and spent all of his money in prospecting, but in vain. His signal failure, however, did not in the least daunt him, and he stood quite ready to waste as much more money in the same way, if he could but get his hands upon it. Sinsinawa Mound and Gratiot's Grove were also among the points we stopped at. The country was overflowing with prospectors, miners and those who thought to pick up a living in various ways, while the excitement lasted. There were fully two thousand men in the country north of Galena, and we frequently came up with little groups of two or more, trudging painfully along with their bundles slung over their shoulders, or perhaps encamped by the wayside; while to come upon a couple of rough fellows sitting on a log or stone, playing old sledge for each other's last dollar, was no uncommon experience. We rode through the country with our horse and buggy,—hired at Galena,—with perfect ease and freedom, and met with no semblance of opposition from either white man or red.

There were from one thousand to fifteen hundred people resident in Galena, at that time. It was a lively little town. The houses were none of them painted, but there was that "snap" about the place that gave promise of great things in the future. Ezekiel Lockwood was the chief business man, and had a big store. L. M. R. Morse was another heavy trader. The mining country was supplied with men from Galena's large floating population. Speculators were as numerous as sand-flies in Green Bay, the majority of them coming from points lower down on the Mississippi.

The miners were in mortal fear of the Indians, and few of them thought of permanently settling in the lead country; their object being to get what they could from the diggings, so long as peace lasted, and be prepared to leave for the Illinois settlements again, on short notice. Galena had, however, cautiously sent out a few frontier colonies, but none of them at any great distance. The only settlements