

of the country, and served as currency. This lead trade was afterwards transferred to St. Louis, when that town began to control the commerce of the region.¹ One of the largest lead dealers of the day was Joseph A. Sire, one of the associates of Chouteau & Sarp's fur company. Under the Spanish *régime*, which now ensued, we are told by Stoddard,² a careful annalist, that lead miners working for themselves often took out "thirty dollars per day, for weeks together," — a profitable employment, indeed. The traders who dealt in the material also made large profits, the returns being "cent per cent for the capital invested."³

Julien Dubuque was the next character of note, upon the scene. He was a man of remarkable energy, and singularly popular among the Indians. In 1788 he obtained from a full council of the Sac and Fox Indians, held at Prairie du Chien, formal permit "to work lead mines tranquilly and without any prejudice to his labors." He had previously made rich discoveries of lead on the west bank of the Mississippi, in the bluffs and ravines adjoining the site of the present Iowa town which bears his name. In the immediate neighborhood of his mines, if not one of

¹ In Ogden, *Letters from the West* (New Bedford, Mass., 1823), p. 58, is this entry, showing that Ste. Genevieve was still flourishing in his time: "St. Genevieve, in particular, is a fine flourishing town. Here, back of the river, lead ore is found in great abundance, which has become a traffic of great profit to the inhabitants."

² Major Amos Stoddard, *Sketches Hist. and Descrip. of Louisiana* (Phila., 1812).

³ Scharf, *St. Louis*, p. 308; *Mich. Pion. Colls.*, ix., p. 543. In his notes to Forman's *Narrative* (Cinn., 1888), L. C. Draper says: "About the first of June, 1790, Colonel Vigo, an enterprising trader of the Illinois country, consigned to him [Michael Lacassangue, a Louisville trader], 4,000 pounds of lead, brought by Major Doughty [who built the fort at Cincinnati] from Kaskaskia."

In 1796, John James Dufour, afterwards founder of the Swiss colony at Vevay, Ind., came to America, and made his start here by buying lead at Kaskaskia, St. Louis, etc., and taking it up the Ohio River to Pittsburgh, where he disposed of the cargo at a profit. With the proceeds he bought 630 acres of land, for a vineyard, at the big bend of Kentucky River.