

more or less occupied by Dubuque's men before any permanent American settlement.¹

Dubuque, who in order to conciliate the Spaniards had named his west-side plant "The Mines of Spain," deemed it advisable to seek a formal recognition from the government of Louisiana. He obtained, November 10, 1796, from Baron de Carondelet, Spanish intendant and governor-general of the province, the grant of a tract seven leagues in length, along the west bank of the Mississippi, by three leagues in depth: but with certain restrictions as to trade, to be prescribed by "the merchant Don Andrew Todd," who had a monopoly of the commerce of the upper valley. Don Andrew, however, does not seem to have been able to hamper Dubuque, and the latter's establishment grew with time. His friendship with the Indians, and their dislike of the Spanish, were a sufficient safeguard against interference from Don Andrew, although he appears to have met with no small opposition on the east side of the river from wandering representatives of the American Fur Company at Mackinaw, who are said to have obtained considerable supplies of lead from the crafty Foxes, and indeed to have themselves smelted some ore.

Dubuque waxed wealthy from his lead and peltries, which he shipped to St. Louis, making two trips a year in a pirogue. In a formal statement made to Maj. Z. M. Pike, September 1, 1805,² he claimed that his mines on the west side of the Mississippi extended over a tract of territory "twenty-eight or twenty-seven leagues long, and from one to three broad;" he said that he made from 20,000 to 40,000 pounds of lead per annum, all of it in pigs, although it is probable that this was an underestimate, for evidently he did not view with favor this evidence of American curiosity about his affairs.

In 1803, France unceremoniously assumed possession of

¹ In 1826, at Ottawa (Allenwrath diggings), two miles from Galena, there was found, under the ashes of a primitive furnace, a heavy sledge hammer, undoubtedly left by Dubuque's miners.

² Pike, *Expedition* (Philadelphia, 1810), appendix to part i., p. 5.