

furnaces mercilessly claimed the sacrifice of the splendid trees which were the pride and glory of the "Grove."

From this first visit dated our close friendship with the family of Henry Gratiot. Mrs. Gratiot was a sister of William Hempstead, commission merchant, and Charles Hempstead, a distinguished lawyer of Galena. She was a lady of cultivated mind and great firmness; endowed with the kindest of feelings, benevolent, and a devoted wife and mother. A youthful friendship sprang up between the children at home with their mother and myself. I particularly remember Susan, afterwards Mrs. Kimball; Adèle, afterwards the wife of E. B. Washburne, who with such signal success later filled the difficult position of minister to France during the Franco-Prussian war. Many pleasant hours we spent together, and although after the death of Colonel and Mrs. Gratiot we have not often met, yet the recollection of those early days lingers as one of the green spots in my memory. The last time I saw Mrs. Washburne was at the funeral of Gov. Cadwallader C. Washburne. Since then she and her husband have both gone to their last home, like many others of the pioneers.

The next morning we visited the settlement of the "Grove," the stores, warehouse, and smelting works. The latter were of the most primitive character, and a very large percentage of the lead was lost in the operation. I also visited the school, where to my surprise I found a small class of country boys studying Latin and Greek, besides the common branches taught in the primary schools. None of the boys could have been over fifteen or sixteen years of age. The schoolmaster, I think his name was Cabbage, made them read and parse for my benefit in Cicero's Oration and Homer's Iliad.

We were informed that Henry Gratiot was in the woods on the Peckatonica River, getting out timber to be floated down the river to Wolf's Creek and then up that stream to a place afterwards known as Gratiot, for the purpose of building a flour mill, the first in that section of the country. So we resumed our journey and followed a track