

and land transfers; besides, his official duties as Indian agent required a good deal of his time. He was a man of fine appearance and carriage, gifted with rare suavity of manners, which won the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact. His probity was proverbial. His open, straightforward dealing with the Indians had won him the friendship of all the tribes then inhabiting the lead mine region. Several times the chiefs had saved his life, even from the Sacs and Foxes, and he was enabled to use his influence for the benefit and protection of the settlers.

There was a marked contrast between him and Hamilton. The latter was a keen, shrewd business man, mostly devoted to money-making; rather unsuccessful in this, but developing all the smartness of a real Yankee in trade. Gratiot, on the other hand, was open-hearted, frank, almost indifferent to gain, devoted to his family, looking upon the acquisition of riches not as the prime object of life, but simply as the means to successfully carry out his undertakings, to provide for his family, and to assist friends and neighbors. One showed the characteristics of English ancestry, while in the other could easily be traced the distinguishing traits of the French.

The death of Gratiot, which occurred two years after my first acquaintance with him, while on his return from a visit to his brother, Gen. Charles Gratiot, Jr., at Washington, was a great loss to this section of the country and he was universally regretted and mourned.

On our return to Galena, we found that my mother's family had arrived from St. Louis and were the guests of Mrs. Adèle Gratiot,¹ who had also come up with her family, and occupied a very pleasant and convenient residence, which her husband had built for her. We acquainted them with our purchase, and it was decided that we should move upon our land as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the weather had changed, and snow and rain fell, as usual in April, and

¹ See "Mrs. Adèle P. Gratiot's Narrative," in *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 261-275. She was the wife of John P. B. Gratiot.—Ed.