

a week or two with my mother and sisters. She was a lady of superior accomplishments. Born and educated at Paris, she had all the grace, polish of manner, and vivacity of a French lady of distinction; and her kindness and amiability could never be affected by any circumstance, however trying or unpleasant it might be. She was always self-possessed, calm, and dignified, without stiffness, and entirely free from bigotry. Wherever known, she was admired for her superior qualities of head and heart. Her father, René Alphonse de David de Perdreauville, had been governor of the island of Gaudeloupe under Napoleon; after the emperor fell, he came to the United States in 1815. In 1818 he settled at St. Louis.<sup>1</sup> The following year, his daughter Adèle, then seventeen years of age, was married to J. P. Bugnion Gratiot. She never missed an occasion to manifest her friendship and her interest in our condition, she herself having experienced the hardships of pioneer life on a farm near St. Louis, with her father, prior to her marriage. Her husband was a man of distinguished appearance—straight, tall, of symmetrical build, bright, active and enterprising, and universally popular; he held no public office, preferring the life of a private gentleman. Our intimacy continued as long as the family lived at Galena. After their removal to the mines of Missouri, we gradually lost sight of each other.

Besides hunting and studying, I found, unsolicited, a new occupation. Previous to leaving Switzerland, our family physician prepared for me a medicine chest, containing all the simple drugs and medicines which were most likely to be of value to us during our journey, together with directions in the nature of a dispensary. We found this a valuable contribution to our comfort. In some way this fact became known in our neighborhood and at Hamilton's settlement, and soon I had calls for help in case of sickness from near and far. I gave of my supplies as long as they lasted, never taking a compensation therefor. I was soon known through-

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<sup>1</sup>See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x, pp. 261, 262.—ED.