

cumstance mainly it owes its sudden growth. For whatever documents there might have been, if any, in the so-called Spanish archives of St. Louis of a political or historical nature, calculated to furnish materials for history, were carried away with the cannon and munitions of war at the evacuation by De Lassus in 1804. As by the terms of the treaty of purchase, and his instructions from the governor-general at New Orleans, he was directed to leave only such papers as related to the private affairs of individuals, such as deeds, concessions, etc., affording but little information of a historical nature, and throwing but little light upon matters of public interest, consequently much of what we have hitherto regarded as *history* of those early days had come down to us through oral tradition alone, with the manifold exaggerations and misstatements to which all unrecorded history is liable in transmission.

Many facts connected with the abandonment of Fort Chartres, St. Phillippe and Kaskaskia have been brought to light in works on these two States and Kentucky that cannot be found in any work on Upper Louisiana.

Major Amos Stoddard, United States army, was the first who ever wrote anything in the shape of a sketch of St. Louis, and here is all he has to say of it in 1804, from his own observation:—

“In 1764 St. Louis was founded by Pierre Laclède, Maxan & Co., as a trading post. In 1766 the village received an accession of inhabitants from the other side of the river, who preferred the Spanish to the English government. It contains about 180 houses, the best of them of stone. A small sloping hill extends along the rear of