

titles, occasioned by the Spanish grants that had not yet been confirmed or annulled by the United States government. The Winters of Natchez claimed a tract of one million acres in the immediate vicinity of the Post, two Spanish *commandantes* had received grants of indefinite extent on White River, while Baron Bastrop's fifty thousand acres on the Washita were claimed by his heirs.<sup>5</sup>

On the prairies back from the river were some French-speaking squatters, half-breeds or *metis*, said to be descended from the ten men whom Tonti had left at the Post in 1686. They had degenerated to the savage state and were "entirely hunters, Indians in habit, and paid no attention to the cultivation of the soil." The American settlers farther up the stream were for the most part from Kentucky and Tennessee. They were growing corn and cotton with success, but hesitated to make any permanent improvements because of their uncertain tenure. Cotton-gins, sawmills, and grist-mills were projected, but little had as yet been accomplished. At Little Rock, the entrance to the hill country, a Georgian named Hogan had laid out a town and proposed to utilize the water-power. At the mouth of the Cad-  
another town was projected, and the one occu-  
of a town lot cherished great hopes of the  
but to Nuttall's unbiased judgment there  
no reason for any accession of population or  
The last white settlement on the Arkansas  
was at Pecannerie (so named for the pecan trees  
in the surrounding forests). Here some  
families had found fertile lands and a whole-