

of six thousand people, of whom not more than one-sixth were blacks. St. Louis was still a mere trading post with nine hundred and twenty-five inhabitants, of whom one-third were slaves. St. Charles and Ste. Genevieve, being farming communities, had a larger proportion of whites. Here the *habitants* driven from Illinois by the American occupation were maintaining existence by means of an indolent agriculture varied by hunting and fishing. At St. André, McKay's bailiwick, some thirty families from Kentucky were cultivating the soil in a fashion that put their French neighbors to shame. Years before the annexation, pioneers from Kentucky and Tennessee had begun moving across the river, until, in 1803, "at least two-fifths if not a greater proportion of all settlers on the Spanish side of the Mississippi, in the Illinois country, are . . . supposed to be Americans." ¹

The products of the rich lands along the lower Mississippi were sugar,² molasses, cotton, and indigo; those of Upper Louisiana, peltry, lumber, lead, horses, and cattle. The annual value of the cotton exported was estimated at \$1,344,000, that of sugar at \$302,400, molasses at \$32,000, peltry at \$200,000, lumber at \$80,000. "The peltry procured in the Illinois is the best sent to the Atlantic market; and the quantity is very considerable. Lead is to be had with ease, and in such quantities as to supply all Europe, if the population were sufficient to work the numerous mines to be found within two or three feet from the surface in various parts of the country." ³ For a considerable distance back from the river, the land