

This journey was to make collections for a cotton-shipper from Kentucky, and led him over "the best lands of Texas." He travelled on the prairies some two hundred miles, the huts of settlers being fifteen to twenty miles apart and the roadways very indistinct. "At night," he says, "I made my supper on corn-dodger; and, wrapping myself in saddle-blankets, with my head on my saddle bags and feet to the fire, was soon sung to sleep by the dismal music of the wolves. * * * *

"There is nothing doing here in engineering. I have turned merchant; been to New Orleans, bought some \$400 worth of goods and consigned them to men here at so much per cent.; and at the same time, I am broker and speculator in a small way, so that I pay my expenses and manage to keep an eye on everything around."

His experience during 1840 was unhappy. While at Walnut Bluff on the Colorado, in May, he and his four companions were taken, about the same time, with "bilious remittent fever." In this condition they were obliged to wait four or five days for a wagon to bring them medicine from Houston. Their only food was corn bread and venison; and some days none was well enough to prepare it. On the day the wagon arrived he took ten grains of calomel; two days after fifteen grains, and the next day ten grains of tartar emetic without relief. By advice of an old settler he took forty grains of calomel, and was free from fever for two weeks. It then returned, and he "again broke it" by the same means. The fever recurred at intervals of one or two weeks, and each recurrence was met with the forty grains of calomel till July. Then he became alarmed on account of the quantity of mercury he had taken to which he ascribed the cramps with which he was afflicted, and resolved to travel till he found a doctor.

He rode two hours morning and evening and completed thirty miles before another attack. He stopped at the house of a settler and sent ten miles for a doctor, but in spite of all he could do the disease continued, with pain in the region of the liver and night sweats, till the middle of September. Then the fever became intermittent with a much swollen spleen. At last he found partial relief, with a relapse every few weeks. He had pain in his stomach, which "refused to digest."

In October while chopping a limb of a tree to be used in construction of a hut, or cabin he divided the bone of his left big toe and split the bone of the second toe, the axe cutting through the side of his boot to the sole. This accident caused him to be on his back with his foot higher than his head during four weeks.