

A strict observance of the Sabbath day was enforced throughout the whole journey, and whenever a house could be found for the Sabbath service my grandfather Edward Mitchell would preach, and if no suitable place could be procured, religious services would be held in a tent or under the shade of trees, all the families uniting in the worship of God hallowing the day, and making it one of rest for man and beast. And the Lord blessed them, He threw around them all His protection and care, and enabled them to reach their destination in safety without the loss of life or property. We all arrived in the territory the last of May or June, and in the month of December following, 1818, Illinois became a State. Some notice in regard to the black servants, belonging to the several families who emigrated to the State at that time may be proper, and I now speak from my personal knowledge: that while my grandfather and uncle Samuel Mitchell and uncle Tilghman H. West set their negroes free, but retained for years several of them, my father and uncle Henry H. West retained theirs in servitude until by a decision of the Supreme Court of the state, slavery was abolished. They believed honestly that they had the perfect right under the Constitution of the United States government to own them and care for them, and the subsequent history of most if not all of them, has demonstrated the fact, that freedom has not brought to them the blessings anticipated. I wish however to make these positive declarations that both Aunt Betty the mother, Aunt Harriet my nurse from infancy were ever kind to the three motherless children my sister Frances Ann, my brother Benja-

min and myself. That I grew up to love them as I did Uncles Jerry and John and for their fidelity and tenderness, I hold their memories very precious. I ever treated them as members of the family, not as slaves, and when I had grown to manhood it constituted a part of my happiness to provide for their wants and repay the debt of gratitude I recognized as their due. When a boy I worked with them side by side, and I never employed them for a day that I did not pay them after they left the service of my father and brother.