



THE ROSE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.

and a mere cluster of houses, perhaps fifty in all, stood on and below the elevated river-side. Said an early settler, the well-remembered Lucius H. Scott, of such a rider:—"I found myself standing on an eminence in the midst of the prairie. Casting my eye over the broad expanse, not a tree or a fence or other indication of house or civilization presented itself to view, but all was one boundless magnificent bed of beautifully variegated flowers. All the earlier reminiscences unite in eulogy of this prairie and woodland primeval, which had charmed the pioneers, and, before them, had pleased the Indians, who, with their usual appreciation of advantageous and attractive sites had established a village where is now the northwestern quarter of the city. Before there was any thought of village or city, at this point, settlers attracted by the wonderful richness of the soil, had occupied a few acres in what is now Vigo County. Joseph Liston, in 1811, plowed the first furrow, and, with a few others, raised 75 acres of corn, which was sold to Gen. Harrison's army. The marches of this army and the encampment at Fort Harrison during the Indian warfare, which involved the territory along the Wabash, contributed to the early settlement of Vigo County and when peace was restored, many of the soldiers of Harrison's army settled on the beautiful prairies they had first admired while on the march. The old fort was built by Gen. Harrison and under the protection of its walls cabins went up, little farms were cultivated, and quite a settlement was found to be afterwards drawn to Terre Haute.

The names of the city, the county it is in, and of the river it is upon, do not indicate the nativity of the pioneers.

The French who had belted the continent with their trading posts and forts, from the Canadas to New Orleans, had given their own names, or a gallicized form of Indian names to rivers, landmarks, and towns, throughout their great Mississippi territory, many of which are retained to this day. French voyageurs had rowed their batteaux down the Wabash, for many years, to Vincennes, and to the Ohio. This elevated plateau, its bank grassy and flowery, its crest green with thicket and grove and the prairie stretching back to the low hills, was the highest point in many miles, and as it faced the low bottom lands across the river seemed very high, and so they called it "highland" or Terre Haute, a term which is a sort of shibboleth by which to distinguish strangers who are apt to change the plain *tare-hote* into any but the right sound, while the citizen says either



RESIDENCE OF H. J. BAKER.

"Terry Hote" or "Tare-hote" as it pleases him. In Wabash we retain the original Indian term, perhaps modified a little by the French. Father Marquette wrote of the Ouabous-Kigon, and later French travelers called it the Ouabache, Oubash, Wabascon, Waubache and other but similar names, using probably as nearly as possible the words from various Indian dialects, differing but little, for "White River." The county took its name from that distinguished man of lofty character and generous patriotism, Col. Vigo (Ve-go) a native of the Kingdom of Sardinia, spoken of in early story as the "Spanish Merchant." The county could perpetuate no more honorable name, nor honor no more worthy citizen than this staunch friend of the young republic, and of the struggling West. As is well known, Col. Vigo, in appreciation of the honor shown his name and other attention from citizens of this county, left a legacy of \$500 to Vigo County, contingent upon the payment of certain claims against the United States, which were finally paid after years of delay, but too late to repay Col. Vigo for the substantial aid he had given the government in its time of need. The legacy went towards paying for the bell which tolls the hours from the lofty dome of the county court house.

Although the Wabash lands were becoming well known, and settlers were occupying