

without falling in with any Sioux, and were apparently on their way home, when on the prairie between Lac Traverse and the head waters of the Mississippi, they discovered a large camp of Sioux of about five hundred lodges. As they were in the neighborhood of the camp, they were discovered by some Sioux on horseback, who immediately gave notice to the camp. The Chippewas finding that they were discovered, and that their fate was sealed, sent one of their number home to carry tidings of their probable destruction, and the other ten got into a copse of timber and brush on the prairie, and commenced throwing up breast works by digging holes with their knives and hands,* determined to sell their lives as dearly as possible, knowing that there was not the remotest hope for their escape.

In a short time the warriors from the Sioux camp surrounded them, and, it would appear, made the attack without much order or system, and fought something like the militia in the Black Hawk war at the attack near Kellogg's, where each one attacked and fought on his own account without orders. To show their bravery, the Sioux would approach the entrenched Chippewas singly, but from the covert and deadly fire of the Chippewas, they were sure to fall. They continued to fight in this way, until about seventy of the Sioux were killed or wounded, when one of the Sioux war chiefs cried out, that the enemy were killing them in detail, and directed a general onset, when they all in a body rushed upon the Chippewas with knives and tomahawks; and, after a severe struggle, overpowered and exterminated them, wounding in the melee many of their own people. The brave Chippewas had exhausted their ammunition, and now fell a sacrifice to superior numbers. Thus perished ten as intrepid warriors as ever entered the battle field. The eleventh pursued his way, and carried to his people the news of the probable fate of the others. The Sioux exulted in their mournful victory, which was purchased at the cost of the lives of between seventy and eighty of their warriors.

*This digging holes was a common mode of defense for a weak party.—See Pike's Expeditions, Phila. edition, 1810, p. 19; and Brunson's Sketch of Crawford County, in Vol. 1, Wis. Agr. Trans.

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