

The following day Mr. Burnett reported to Gen. Street: "In obedience to your order of yesterday, I went on board the steamer *Enterprise* last evening, and started for La Crosse. We arrived early this morning at the entrance of the lower mouth of Black River, and found the Winnebagoes encamped on the shore. I took We-kon Decori, and went on shore immediately to see the Indians. I found the One-Eyed Decori and the Little Thunder at the lodges, but found that most of the band had left the village sometime since. Win-ne-shick and Wau-mar-nar-sar, with about fifteen men and their families, had been gone near a month to hunt, and dry meat, about fifty miles up La Crosse and Black rivers. The rest of the band were in the camp. I told them that you wished to see them immediately; that the Americans under Gen. Dodge had defeated the Sauks and Foxes on the Wisconsin, and after killing a great many had driven them across the river; that the defeated Indians were endeavoring to make their escape to the Mississippi for the purpose of crossing it, and regaining their own country; and that it was probable they would attempt to reach that point, that they might get the Winnebago canoes to cross in, and that they must get away from that place before the Sauks and Foxes arrived.

"They said they would come down immediately on the return of the absent party; that they were afraid of the Sauks, and did not wish to leave a small part of their band behind, who were too few to resist if they should meet them. I then told them to send two of their best young men on horseback, to bring in the hunting party. They very promptly complied, and in a short time the young men were mounted and on their way. I charged the express to carry to the absent Indians the message I had delivered, and to tell Win-ne-shick especially, that his presence was required at the agency. The chiefs present told me, that they thought they would all be here certainly in six days, and probably sooner. I told them it was of great importance to them to come as soon as possible, and bring all their canoes on the river; that if the Sauks should come to that point, they were not strong