

Immediately upon my return to the mines, after an absence of three days, with intelligence substantially confirming the alarming reports we had previously received, Col. Dodge (as we shall now designate him), collected and organized a mounted company, of which James H. Gentry was chosen Captain, Henry L. Dodge (son of Col. Dodge), first Lieutenant, and Paschal Bequette (afterwards son-in-law of Col. Dodge), second Lieutenant. This company consisted of about fifty men, and was kept constantly in the field, with Col. Dodge at their head; and, with this company, he made an expedition to Dixon, for the purpose of securing some additional force from Gov. Reynolds, of Illinois, who had arrived there at the head of what was called the first "Sucker Army;" as well also, to ascertain, if possible, something of the probable movements and designs of Black Hawk, and whether any marauding Indian parties had been sent out upon our frontiers. For this movement Col. Dodge has been censured by some, but I think without any good reason. It always seemed to me, that this step was a judicious one, fully warranted by the circumstances attending it. He failed, however, to obtain any additional force, and found none of the enemy upon our southern border.

Col. Dodge returned to the Mining District, bringing the intelligence of *Stillman's Defeat*, at the mouth of Kish-wau-kee, on Rock River, about thirty miles above Dixon, which was on the 14th of May. This information at first threw the inhabitants into considerable alarm and confusion. But fortunately there were, in the country, quite a number of men of some wisdom, discretion, and experience, as connected with Indian difficulties, of whom Col. Dodge seemed to be the chief. Many others might be mentioned, as being well calculated to counsel and direct in such times of danger—such as Col. Wm. S. Hamilton, Maj. Richard H. Kirkpatrick, Capt. John H. Rountree, Capt. Robert C. Hoard, Capt. James H. Gentry, Capt. Joseph Dickson, Capt. Clark, Capt. John Moore, Lieut. Charles Bracken, Dr. Loughborough, and many others. By the wise counsels and untiring exertions of these men, and those associated with them, the country was