

of two thousand dollars. The captives were brought into that fort* by a band of Winnebagoes, headed by the chief White Crow, or *The Blind*, as he was usually called, who had got them from the Sauks for that purpose.

After the matter of the captive girls was arranged and both whites and Indians had taken up their quarters for the night, a scene of some alarm and confusion took place. The White Crow had told Capt. Beon Gratiot, that he was friendly towards him, as his brother was the Winnebago Indian Agent; that he did not wish to see him killed, and that he had better leave Col. Dodge and go home; that the Sauks and Foxes would kill all the whites; that the whites could not fight, as they were a soft-shelled breed; that when the spear was put to them they would quack like ducks, as the whites had done at Stillman's Defeat; and he proceeded to mimic out, in full Indian style, the spearing and scalping in the Stillman affair; and that all the whites who persisted in marching against the Indians, might expect to be served in the same manner. Besides this conversation, the Indians acted and conducted themselves in many respects very suspiciously, so much so as to greatly alarm Capt. Gratiot, and others, who confidently believed that the Indians meditated an attack in the night with a large force.

Upon this information being conveyed by Capt. Gratiot to Col. Dodge, who had retired for the night, he instantly jumped up, and said with great emphasis—"Be not alarmed, Sir; let them come; we will show them, Sir, that *we are not* of the soft-shelled breed;" and immediately went out, and took the White Crow and a few others into custody, and next morning marched the whole body off to Col. James Morrison's farm, where he held a council with them in the presence of Col. Gratiot, their Agent. But such was Col. Dodge's suspicions of them from this conduct, that he retained one or two of their principal chiefs as hostages for the good behavior of the nation; a course, I think, fully jus-

*On the 3rd of June, having been taken on the 21st of May preceding.
L. C. D.