

little, which enabled the Indians to reach the main Pecatonica, and were crossing it just as we came up in full view of them again; and some shots were exchanged here, but without effect, the distance being too great.

Just after the Indians had effected a passage of the river, which was then much swollen, Capt. Gentry and I effected a crossing by swimming our horses. Asa Duncan made the same attempt, but did not succeed. This placed Capt. Gentry and myself upon the same side of the river with the Indians, where we could command a full view of their movements, and which perhaps decided them upon making no further attempts to escape, but to prepare to fight. They then marched leisurely into a grove in the bend of the river, and secreted themselves under the bank of a deep slough, which had no doubt at some former period, been the bed of the river. This embankment was surrounded and sheltered with thick under-brush and trees.

In the meantime, Col. Dodge had, with the remainder of the men, effected a crossing higher up the river, at a ford on an old Indian trail, and were dismounted at the head of the grove in which the Indians were concealed. Capt. Gentry said to me, "Col. Parkinson, you may remain here, if you will, as you are on a fleet horse, and I will go to Col. Dodge, and conduct him this way to the Indians, and then you can join us." I consented to this arrangement; but before Capt. Gentry reached Col. Dodge, he mired his horse in a slough, which he was attempting to cross, and lost his gun. Col. Dodge had made one advance through the grove, and came out in sight of where I was posted. I then conducted him to the point where the Indians entered the grove, and found their trail; upon which we marched in an extended line, keeping the trail at the centre of our line.

When we had advanced upon the trail about two hundred yards with death-stillness, the enemy's whereabouts was suddenly announced to us by a volley of fire arms, accompanied by the most terrific yells. But we were not in the least daunted, and Col. Dodge instantly gave the order to charge, which was prompt-