

by Gen. Atkinson's report to the War Department.* We pursued them to the bottom of the Wisconsin, where we reached the tall grass, which was wet, it having rained nearly the entire afternoon of that day, and it being now nearly dark, the pursuit was continued no farther.

We returned to camp, and just after supper, we were cheered by the arrival of Adjutant Woodbridge and Adjutant Merriman, who, it will be recollected, had been sent from the Rapids of Rock River, as an express to Gen. Atkinson, on Bark River. With them came Capt. James B. Estes, who claims to have been in the battle, but was, according to my recollection, about two hours too late. Our interpreter, Mr. Poquette, and our Indian spies who had accompanied us from Fort Winnebago, left us immediately after the battle. This turned out to have been an unfortunate event; for that same night, the silence of our camp was broken by the loud shrill voice of an Indian from the summit of one of the highest peaks in that vicinity, haranguing, as we supposed, his warriors preparatory to an attack upon us.

Although we were well posted and surrounded with a double guard, yet it naturally produced some excitement, and was well calculated to test the coolness and material of our officers and men. We then thought that Black Hawk's entire force was being brought to bear upon us in a night attack—the most to be dreaded of all attacks, especially when made by an Indian enemy. Our material proved good; no man showed the white feather, and our commanders, in concert with the Indian orator, harangued their men in the most stirring manner. Gen. Henry, in particular, addressed his men in a most patriotic strain, reminding them of

* In Gen. Atkinson's report of the battle of Bad Ax, he says: "It is ascertained from our prisoners, that the enemy lost in the battle of the Wisconsin, sixty-eight killed and a very large number wounded." Capt. Estes, in his narrative in Gen. Smith's work, states the Indian loss at sixty-eight. Beouchard states, that he learned after the war from some of the Sauks, that Black Hawk lost sixty-nine in the battle, and that thirteen died on their way to the mouth of the Bad Ax. Gen. Bracken speaks, not of his own knowledge, but of those who had better opportunities of knowing, that the Indian loss was between forty and fifty killed on the field, and the number wounded unknown, as they were carried away. Yet, strange to say, Black Hawk, in his narrative, admits the loss of only six killed in the battle.