

Gen. Atkinson,[†] who had broken up his encampment on Bark River, soon arrived with his troops, so that on the 26th of the month the entire army rendezvoused at Helena, on the Wisconsin, and soon crossed the river, and took the Indian trail, which was down the valley and was rendered quite offensive by the stench of numerous dead bodies of the enemy, who had no doubt died in consequence of their wounds received in the battle of Wisconsin. On the 2nd of August, the Indians were overtaken, and most disastrously beaten. Here, as at the battle of Wisconsin, Col. Dodge's command occupied the front rank, the engagement having been brought on by Capt. Dickson, who still commanded the spies, and who was wounded in the conflict. It was more a massacre than a battle, as the Indians only fought as they were compelled to; many of them were killed as they were crossing the river, women and children as well as men. This was the closing conflict of the war. Black Hawk was soon after taken prisoner, and conducted through the principal cities of the Union. I may add, in this connection, that in consequence of the illness of my wife, I changed commands with Capt. Hoard; and what I relate of the movements of the army after its departure from Helena, I have derived from Capt. Hoard, and one of my sons, who also served on the expedition.

Thus ended all our Indian difficulties, and from that period the progress of Wisconsin has been rapid, unexampled and astonishing; and if in future her laws shall be made and executed by wise, honest and discreet men, she must soon attain an eminence of great distinction. Having migrated here at an early period, and having been actively engaged in sanguinary conflicts, and in repelling savage invasions, for the safety and preservation of our infant settlements; and having moreover, taken some humble part in the early councils of Wisconsin, I cannot but feel

[†]Gen. Atkinson was a native of North Carolina; he entered the army in 1808, and served with credit during the War of 1812, and during the Indian troubles in Wisconsin, as we have seen in 1827 and 1832. He was stationed long on the western frontier, and the Indians called him the White Beaver. He died at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, June 20th, 1842, aged about 60 years.

L. C. D.