

FAYETTE, NOV. 29, 1852.

Editors of Wisconsin Tribune:

My attention having lately been called to an account of the battle of the Pekatonica, written by Charles Bracken, and published in your paper, in which I think there are some material mistakes, and having been requested by a number of persons to write my recollection of that affair, and point out wherein I think Mr. Bracken's recollection does not serve him correctly; I have thought proper, in justice to the dead as well as the living, and also in justice to the correctness of history, for which that account was intended, to comply with the request which has been made. In so doing, I do not wish to detract in the slightest degree from the merit of any one who acted in that affair.

I was quite young at the time, and it being the first engagement that I was ever in, every incident was almost indelibly fixed upon my mind. Mr. Bracken's relation of the affair at Spafford's is correct, as I recollect it, until he says, "I being second in command, was ordered to the scene of the murder with eleven men." Mr. Bracken might have been ordered to the scene of the murder, but he certainly did not go in command of the detachment, nor in company with them, until within about four miles this side of Fort Hamilton (now Wiota), where he and Van Waggoner* were overtaken by the detachment. They (Bracken and Van Waggoner) having left Fort Defiance in advance of the detachment. Bracken appearing to be displeased at some of the movements, mounted his horse and said, "It is time we were off; all that are going with me, come on;" upon which Van Waggoner joined him and they started off. In about half an hour the detachment were mounted and ready to march; upon which R. H. Kirkpatrick was chosen the commander for the occasion. The detachment then proceeded to Fort Hamilton, and arrived there about twelve o'clock at night. Next morning, just as the detachment was ready

*Col. D. M. Parkinson gives the name of Benjamin Lawhead, instead of Van Waggoner, as the person who accompanied Lieut. Bracken on this occasion—see, *ante*, p. 344.

L. C. D.