

Dodge, I could not, had I ransacked the vocabulary of the English language, found expressions more suitable for the occasion, or given better testimony of his coolness and discretion on the eve of a battle. His mind was made up, as he stated, "to whip the enemy or die in the attempt." He therefore coolly and discreetly forewarned us that there would be no snaps or flashes of our guns; he required us to gird tight our loins and unbutton our shirt collars, that our respiration might be free to sustain him in the desperate encounter that was before us.

Again, Mr. Parkinson thinks my memory is at fault, when I make the General swear terribly. If I must confess the fact, he swore far more terribly than I have represented. If Mr. Parkinson had been disposed to task his memory to do justice to my conduct in that battle, as much as he appears disposed to detract from it, it would have been no great tax on his memory to have recollected, that in my hand-to-hand encounter with the Indian at the pond, the breech of my gun had a sliver cut out of it, some three or four inches long, by the spear of the Indian. That gun I carried throughout the war, and Mr. Parkinson as well as others has time and again seen that evidence of that encounter.

And Mr. Parkinson has at this late day found it convenient to unlearn what he formerly knew, that from a fortuitous train of circumstances my actions on that occasion were such, that the General, by common consent, awarded me two out of the seventeen scalps taken, and I state it on good authority, that in the fall of the year after the war, when the annual firing of the prairie took place, and the woods and grass were destroyed, that the bones of fifteen Indians were found at the pond where the battle took place, those of another between that and the point where they crossed the creek, and those of another at the crossing of the creek which I alleged to have killed; a party of Menomonee and Sioux Indians, under the command of Colonels Hamilton and Marsh had arrived at the fort a short time after we commenced the pursuit. These Indians taking our trail, found and scalped the two latter, and overtook the detachment as we were returning with our